

Verdicts awaited on 'resorts campaign' plot charges

Magee guilty of Brighton hotel bomb

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Patrick Magee was yesterday found guilty of plotting the Provisional IRA bomb at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, in 1984 and killing five people attending the Conservative Party annual conference.

At the Central Criminal Court Magee, aged 35, from Belfast, was convicted of planting the bomb in September 1984, causing the explosion the next month, and murdering five people.

He was found guilty on seven counts after a jury of six men and six women had deliberated for five and a quarter hours at the end of a 24-day trial.

After hearing the verdicts, Magee looked up to the public gallery and winked.

Bearded and wearing a brown leather jacket, Magee half turned his back to the judge and called "good luck" up to the gallery before being taken down.

Magee has also pleaded not guilty, with four other defendants, to conspiring to carry out a bomb campaign last year aimed at 16 targets in London and various British resorts.

After giving the Brighton bomb verdicts, the foreman said that the jury had not reached verdicts on Magee or the others in the conspiracy case. Mr Justice Boreham sent the jury away for the night to a hotel after the foreman said he did not think any more deliberations yesterday would result in verdicts.

Magee will be sentenced once the jury has finished deciding the other verdicts.

Magee was found guilty of planting a timed explosive device in room 629 of the Grand Hotel between September 14 and 19, 1984. He was found guilty of causing the explosion on October 12, 1984, when the bomb went off at 2.54am on the night before the last day of the conference.

At the time of the explosion, the Prime Minister and senior members of the Government were staying in the hotel. As well as the five people killed, 34 others were injured.

Yesterday Magee was found guilty of the murders of Sir Anthony Berry, Conservative

Scottish Conservative Party. At the beginning of the trial in May the court was told by Mr Roy Amiot, prosecuting, that the bomb at the Grand Hotel came "within an inch of being the Provisional IRA's most devastating explosion". Magee placed a timed device in the bathroom of room 629 in the month before the party conference. He used a false name and address to book into the hotel over a weekend, paid cash and may have been joined by another person.

After the bomb exploded the registration card for room 629 was examined by a Scotland Yard fingerprint expert who found a palm print and a fingertip print which he told the court matched fingerprints belonging to Magee.

Magee was arrested last June when Scottish police raided a flat in Glasgow. He was arrested with the other four defendants. They are accused of a plot to explode 16 bombs last summer round the country. Magee is said to have planted the first device in a London hotel opposite Buckingham Palace.

The bomb was found by police in a room Magee allegedly booked under a false name and address in mid-June.

During the trial the prosecution alleged it was no coincidence that a false name and address had been used by Magee at the Grand Hotel in Brighton and a false name and address had been used for the London hotel where his fingerprints were alleged to have been discovered on the hotel registration card.

Mr Justice Boreham, who sent the jury to an hotel, MP for Enfield Southgate, aged 59; Mrs Jeanne Shattock, aged 52, wife of the chairman of the Conservative party's western area; Eric Taylor, aged 54, chairman of the Conservative Party's north-western area; Mrs Roberta Ann Wakham, aged 45, wife of the government Chief Whip; and Mrs Muriel MacLean, aged 54, wife of the chairman of the

The Prime Minister declined yesterday to intervene to force British Airways to buy £700m of aircraft engines from Rolls-Royce rather than from the Americans.

Under questioning in the Commons from Mr Neil Kinnock who had urged her to "bat for Britain" Mrs Margaret Thatcher declared that Rolls-Royce would have to "win on merit".

It did no good for the efficiency of British industry to protect it from foreign competition, the Prime Minister said.

Their clash came after reports that BA preferred the US-built General Electric engines to power its next fleet of Boeing jumbo jets.

Although a spokesman for the airline, due to be privatised next year, described the reports as speculation yesterday and said that Rolls-Royce had not been ruled out as a supplier, within BA a preference for the General Electric engine is being stated. In the sensitive period up to privatisation the airline is keen to be seen to be basing all its purchasing decisions on strict commercial judgments.

The Prime Minister was said later to be extremely anxious that Rolls-Royce should win the order but she believes that it will win it on merit and was said by Whitehall sources to be tired of the mood of defeatism that always suggested that British companies would not win such contests.

However, a decision by BA to go for the American option would undoubtedly cause widespread hostility on the Conservative back benches.

Continued on page 20, col 1

Township 20,000 left homeless

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Government was reported last night to be on the brink of re-imposing a state of emergency after failing to resolve a parliamentary deadlock that is blocking the passage of two controversial new security Bills.

As the constitutional crisis deepened, there was renewed fighting between rival black groups in the Crossroads shanty town outside Cape Town. Over the past two days 14 people have been killed and an estimated 20,000 left homeless after their shacks and tents were burnt down.

Four journalists covering the fighting, three of them cameramen and one a reporter, were among at least 20 people injured. One of the wounded, Mr George De'ath, a cameraman on a freelance assignment for ITN, underwent surgery for serious head injuries in the Groot Schuur hospital in Cape Town.

According to one report, Mr De'ath, a white South African, and Mr Andile Sost, his black somalman, who received lesser injuries, were attacked by a mob wielding knobkerries and pangas, large broad-bladed knives. The two men were found lying next to a house.

Meanwhile, fighting between rival groups was also reported to have erupted in Alexandra, a black township north of Johannesburg, after a student leader was shot dead by unknown gunmen.

In the south-eastern Transvaal, a white schoolboy and two black farm workers were

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Commons clash on BA choice

By Philip Webster and Edward Townsend

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Continued on page 20, col 1

Poll shows Tory seats collapse in Tory seats

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A collapse in support for the Government in three parliamentary seats held comfortably by the Conservatives at the last general election was indicated by a survey of voting intentions published last night.

In all three, Bolton West, Bristol West and Welwyn Hatfield, it is the Labour Party rather than the Alliance which has made massive inroads.

The surveys, conducted for the BBC Newsnight programme, were taken in three seats where the Alliance received respectable showings in June 1983.

The results are likely to cause further concern on the Conservative back benches where MPs with marginal seats have been growing increasingly anxious about recent opinion-poll trends and the results of the local government elections and parliamentary by-elections last month.

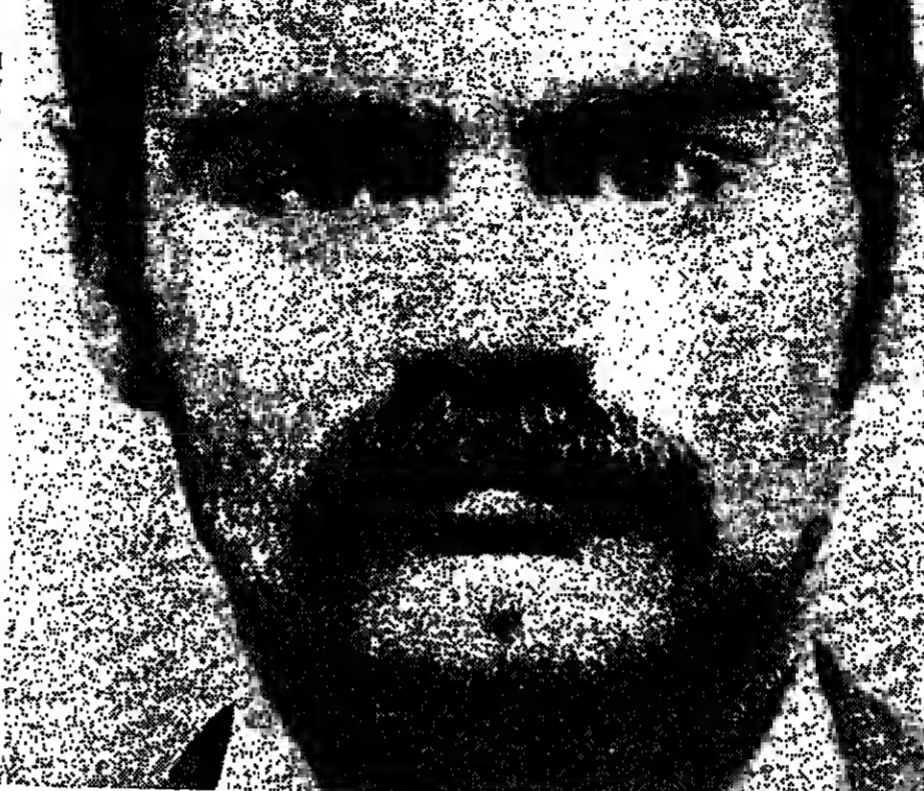
The most striking result is in Bolton West where a Conservative lead over Labour of 14 per cent has, according to the survey, been replaced by a 20 per cent Labour lead over the Conservatives. In that seat the Alliance had gained only 3 per cent.

In Bristol West, represented by Mr William Wakegrave, Minister for the Environment, the Conservative lead over Labour is now only 1 per cent. In 1983 the Conservatives won 49 per cent, Labour 19 per cent and the Alliance 29 per cent. The Alliance has risen to 30 per cent.

At Welwyn Hatfield, Labour has jumped from third place in 1983 to lead the Conservatives by 2 per cent with the Alliance, which was second in 1983, trailing on 24 per cent.

But the CAA gave a warning that the cheap fares may not last; while it was important to try to boost travel now, artificially low prices throughout the peak summer season would be against the long-term interests of both airlines and passengers.

The £56 fare will go to the first 30 to apply for each flight, Virgin said yesterday. Re-



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Hopes of cheaper home loan rates recede

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Hopes of a cut in base rates, which could have led to cheaper mortgages, were knocked yesterday by the announcement of a sharp rise in the money supply.

The Bank of England indicated that it would be maintaining an extremely cautious attitude to base rate cuts as a result of the 3 per cent rise in the sterling M3 measure of money last month.

The figures, ironically, were bad enough to boost the pound by 2 cents to \$1.5165 against the dollar, because dealers believe an early base rate cut has been ruled out.

The Stock Exchange took the news badly, with the FT 30-share index closing 15.1 down at 1,314.4. Later in New York the Dow Jones industrial average fell 13.86 points in morning trading to 1826.29.

In the House of Commons, the Prime Minister again rejected the idea of taking the pound into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. Business leaders have argued that EMS membership would have provided Britain with stable exchange rates and improved prospects for bringing down interest rates.

The rise in the money supply was three times that expected by analysts. The rise last month brings the increase over the past 12 months to 19.5 per cent, against an 11 to 15 per cent official target.

It had been hoped that a good set of money supply figures, coupled with the announcement on Friday of a

House of Commons from the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, was firm in her rejection of EMS entry.

"At present, there is no intention of us joining the EMS," she said. "To do so would deny us an option which we have at the moment. When you get speculation against sterling, there are only two ways of dealing with it."

"One is using up precious reserves, which can only be done to a very, very limited extent; and secondly, by sharply putting up the interest rate. One is denied the option if taking the strain on the exchange rate."

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May inflation rate of less than 3 per cent, would have re-established the momentum for a sharp cut in the cost of borrowing.

The last base rate cut, to 10 per cent, was on May 22. A fall to 9.5 per cent was expected this week, probably followed by a further reduction before the end of the month.

Now, the cut to 9.5 per cent, and by no means certain this month. Building societies were poised to reduce mortgage rates by 0.75 points from the present 11 per cent if base rates had dropped.

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Finnish radiation alert a mystery

By Our Foreign Staff

A monitoring station on Finland's southern coast near the Soviet Union has detected radiation levels higher than any registered after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Finnish officials said yesterday that they had sent up aircraft to determine the source of the radiation, which was detected on Monday night when winds were blowing on to the Finnish coast from the direction of the Soviet Union.

Readings of 1.8 milliroentgen per hour were recorded on Monday night and by mid-afternoon on Tuesday the readings, which were of radiation in the air, had dropped to 0.03 milliroentgen, close to normal levels.

Mr Antti Vuorinen, head of Finland's Bureau of Nuclear Radiation Safety, said the peak consisted of two measurements both lasting under 20 seconds. Because of this it was difficult to make any definite conclusions.

It was possible such peaks were the result of Chernobyl, but "if we do not receive additional information it is very difficult to identify the cause of the peak".

Finnish were advised that no emergency precautions were needed.

"It was not a meter fault," an Interior Ministry safety official said, confirming that officials had checked instruments which first detected the radiation. Officials also said the sudden peak in radioactivity could not have come from nearby Finnish reactors.

Mr Leif Mohrberg, of Sweden's Radiation Institute, said: "We don't know where the cloud came from, where it went or what would be the reason." No monitoring stations in Sweden recorded any unusual readings.

Other officials such as peaks occur about twice a year. Sometimes they go unexplained, and sometimes it is a question of faulty instruments.

In Britain, there were no signs of an increase in radiation levels. A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency said there were no grounds to suspect any further radiation leakage and there was a "high suspicion" that the increase in radiation was the result of "an anomalous meter reading".

The Queen yesterday awarded an honorary knighthood to Bob Geldof, organizer of the Band Aid campaign to help the starving in Ethiopia and elsewhere, the Foreign Office announced.

Because Mr Geldof, a pop singer, is an Irish national, he will not call himself Sir Bob Geldof, but Mr Bob Geldof KBE.

The award was made on the recommendation of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in recognition of Mr Geldof's work, which included a Band Aid record, a Live Aid concert and Sport Aid events.

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Moves to oust Shah may be under way

Journalists on Today believe that an attempt to oust Mr Eddy Shah from control of the newspaper's owning company has been launched.

A board meeting was held late into Monday evening but investors and directors would disclose nothing. Employees suspect that an attempt to remove Mr Shah and either buy out the newspaper or introduce new investors, has failed for the time being.

CAA approves £56 transatlantic fare

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Transatlantic air fares will be at their lowest ever for the next six weeks, with flights from Gatwick to New York reduced to £56 one way, by Virgin Atlantic, and £66, by People Express.

Civil Aviation Authority approval was announced yesterday as the first of British Airways' 3700 free-seat winners flew in by Concorde from the United States in a further effort to boost flagging Atlan-

tic travel in the wake of Libya and Chernobyl. Bookings have been cut by up to 30 per cent on last year.

But the CAA gave a warning that the cheap fares may not last; while it was important to try to boost travel now, artificially low prices throughout the peak summer season would be against the long-term interests of both airlines and passengers.

The £56 fare will go to the first 30 to apply for each flight, Virgin said yesterday. Re-

There are already signs that the cheap offers have begun to attract passengers back after American fears of terrorism.

Virgin said it had 2,000 bookings for the cheap fares before CAA approval was announced and that it was flying 80 per cent full.

At British Airways, the free-seat competition had captured American imagination from coast to coast. Mr Colin Marshall, BA chief executive said. Forward bookings were rising at an encouraging rate.

Sales of child aspirin banned

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The general sale of children's aspirin and all junior medicines containing aspirin was banned by the Department of Health and Social Security yesterday.

A letter sent from the Committee on Safety of Medicines to 165,000 doctors, dentists and pharmacists advises that aspirin should not be given to children aged under 12.

Dr Donald Acheson, the department's chief medical officer, said that there were a few illnesses for which aspirin, which has been in use for 100 years, might be the preferred treatment under prescription.

But, for all other cases, the DHSS yesterday recommended alternative preparations which have paracetamol as their active ingredient, including Panadol Elixir, Calpol Infant Syrup, Paldesic Syrup and Falzone.

Since aspirin is the most widely used non-narcotic pain-killer available over the counter to parents, manufac-

turers are to ensure their products are removed from supermarkets and local shops.

The versions prepared for children are mainly those labelled as Junior Aspirin and Junior Disprin, which are fruit-flavoured tablets.

But parents should also avoid giving infants diluted versions of nighttime drinks, such as Lemsip and comparable products, which are said to combat the aches of colds and influenza.

There will be labels on all new packs of preparations containing aspirin, warning parents not to give them to children aged under 12.

The decision comes after growing evidence of a possible link between a rare but acute condition known as Reye's syndrome, and the use of aspirin as a treatment for infants with febrile colds.

The syndrome, which is very rare, affects the brain and the liver. It has occurred in some children after a viral infection such as influenza. The symptoms include severe vomiting and impaired consciousness which may progress rapidly to delirium and coma. The condition especially affects the liver.

Continued on page 20

South Africa at the crossroads

Times Profile of Soweto, ten years after violence engulfed the township home of 1 1/4 million of Johannesburg's blacks

Portfolio

The £4,000 prize in the Times Portfolio Gold competition was won outright yesterday by Miss Annette French, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

There is another £4,000 to be won today.

Portfolio list, page 26; rules and how to play, information service, page 20.

Gower sacked, replaced by Gatting

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

David Gower has been dismissed as England cricket captain and will be replaced for the remaining two Test matches against India by Mike Gatting, of Middlesex.

Gower was given the news by Mr Peter May, the chairman of selectors and a former England captain, after India's five-wicket victory in the first Test in Lord's, which was only their second Test win here since they first toured England in 1932.

It was England's sixth successive defeat and the fourteenth in 26 Tests under the

captaincy of the 29-year-old Leicestershire left-hander.

Gower, who is expected to remain as a batsman, said: "I guess my seat depended largely on what happened in this game. I assumed I had to win or draw but it did not work out like that. I do not feel let down by the players. They tried. The reason we lost was our second innings collapse."

Gower knew he was on trial. After losing all five Tests in the West Indies last winter, the selectors told him to be more forceful and adopt a higher profile on the field.

Gatting, who has been Middlesex captain since 1983 and led England twice in the Caribbean last winter, was surprised at the decision.

"When we got off the field I was asked by Peter May if I could do the job. I wanted a little time to think about it, so I hesitated at first. It was not a great ambition to captain England. But now it has come it is very good to do so, although I feel very sorry for David."

Test match report, page 40



Quality in an age of change.

Vertical sidebar containing various advertisements including 'Mexico needs Botham spirit', 'WORLD CUP', 'South Africa at the crossroads', 'Portfolio', and 'Gower sacked, replaced by Gatting'.

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Big fare cuts promised from autumn for rail travellers in South-east

By Michael Bally, Transport Editor

Big fare cuts are promised for rail travellers in the South-east this autumn as part of a facelift of London commuter services unveiled by British Rail's new Network SouthEast Division yesterday.

From September, passengers will pay £10 for a Network card which will allow a third off the normal fare for all off-peak journeys in the area stretching from King's Lynn, Norfolk, to Ramsgate in Kent, and from Northampton to Weymouth in Dorset.

From today a new Daily Capitalcard will give commuters into central London unlimited travel on London's bus and underground systems on a single ticket costing 80p more than their usual British Rail cheap day return.

Other measures announced at a press launch at Waterloo yesterday by Mr Chris Green, SouthEast's new director, include:

Improved punctuality: There has been a rise from 84 per cent to 92 per cent in on-time trains already this year.

Cleaner and more attractive trains: A new red, blue and grey livery introduced progressively from yesterday, and a daily cleaning programme for all trains. Attractive new seating, with litter bins, and a new campaign to keep feet off seats is to be introduced, and from 1990 a fleet of faster, quieter Network trains will start to enter service.

Cleaner and more attractive stations: 930 stations have been painted and modernized, and 55 new stations are being considered for developing traffic flows. Stations are getting red lamp posts and red benches, with improved passenger information systems using the latest technology.

Mr Green said that the London and South-east railway was one of the greatest in the world and a priceless national asset. But it was the subject of criticism and cynicism that it was outdated,

which the programme would help to remove. More than £20 million was to be spent on the programme, with more to follow, but the key was to motivate British Rail staff to give customers the service they wanted, Mr Green said.

Together with a big marketing drive, the aim was to double the division's daily 500,000 off-peak travellers, and generate enough new revenue to pay for all the improvements.

Some commuter organizations gave the ambitious plans a sceptical reception. "Sweet dreams" was the comment of a lady from the Harrow and Haverhill Commuter Association, who pointed out complaints about the existing service.

The chairman of Dorking Commuters said: "You're giving us a picture of paradise far away from today's filthy and unreliable trains."

SDP plans subsidies for rented housing

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

A radical plan to rejuvenate the moribund private rented housing sector through state subsidies was unveiled yesterday by Dr David Owen.

The Social Democratic Party leader said rents should be brought down to "affordable and attractive" levels by a system of government support on a par with that already available in home owners through mortgage interest tax relief.

Under the scheme, landlords would qualify for a subsidy equivalent to 25 per cent of their annual costs and pass the savings on to tenants.

Young, single people denied priority on council house waiting lists and those needing to move frequently because of their work would be among the main target groups.

Dr Owen told the Institute of Housing Conference in Brighton that the current assured tenancy scheme, which removes rents from the scope of the Fair Rent Act, had failed to get off the ground because costs were too high.

He said: "A central feature of the SDP strategy is the development of new forms of non-council rented accommodation. A new sector of social housing for rent needs to be created, to be managed by housing associations and other approved landlords."

At a fringe meeting at the conference, Mr Jeff Rooker, Labour spokesman on housing, confirmed that his party would not remove the right of council tenants to buy their homes.

Steps would be taken to cut the costs of buying and selling a house and to protect home owners in difficulty with mortgage repayments.



Lord Elton framed yesterday by one of the lime trees which his department is planning to replace at Hampton Court Palace (Photograph: Peter Trievmor).

Keeping faith with Wren

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Some rebuilding in the gutted wing of Hampton Court Palace would be done without exact reproduction of the original materials, Lord Elton, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, said yesterday. That would be done "only where such methods are not visible and would be more efficient".

Lord Elton announced also that as well as restoring the Wren extension, badly damaged in the fire, the Government wanted to spend more than £40,000 on replacing the semi-circle of lime trees that still stand in the pattern conceived by Sir Christopher Wren.

"They have found almost a complete chandelier," Lord Elton said. "The immediate job was to put a protective roof on. What we are now concerned with is the establishment of authenticity in the restoration."

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None of the trees is original, although 25 date back to the eighteenth century. The Government wanted to replace the present mixture of old and recent trees with 198 new ones, each 15ft high, which would reproduce the pattern planned by Wren almost 300 years ago, and help to preserve the character of "England's finest example of gardening in the grand manner", he said.

They would make a fitting symbol for the celebration in 1988 of the 300th anniversary of the accession of William III.

£100,000 bail bill for brother

Ian Smalley, a Leicester businessman who is refusing to leave the United States to stand trial in Britain accused of supplying arms to Iran, landed his brother with a £100,000 bill in the High Court yesterday.

Lord Justice Woolf, sitting with Mr Justice Macpherson in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, upheld the order of a Crown Court judge in July 1983 that he must forfeit the £100,000 surety he put up for his brother as a condition of bail pending trial.

Mr John Smalley, an economist of Sandown Road, Stonegate, Leicester, had agreed to give the surety while his brother awaited a hearing in October 1982 of charges against him relating to the unlicensed export of tank engines.

Part of the bail conditions was that he should surrender his passport. But in July that year it was varied by the High Court to allow him to visit the United States for five weeks.

But when he arrived in America the next month he was arrested and charged with illegally shipping arms worth millions of dollars to Iran and Iraq. He was later acquitted by a jury in Dallas, Texas, but by then he had missed his trial.

Judge Harrison Hall, sitting at Warwick Crown Court, then ordered Ian Smalley to forfeit his £25,000 personal surety and his brother to forfeit his £100,000.

Mr John Smalley claimed his brother, who is believed to be living on a yacht off the Florida coast, had been refused permission to leave by the American authorities.

World link for school computers

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

An international schools computer network has been launched which could link Britain's secondary schools to their counterparts in Canada, France, Italy, Japan and China.

The network allows computer messages and lessons to be sent around the world in seconds. The nerve centre of the international project is a computer housed at the University of British Columbia, which is capable of sending teaching material from its electronic libraries to schools and colleges in all the member countries at the same time.

The lessons would be displayed in typed form on the school or college computer, having been transmitted either by cable or satellite link from the Canadian computer. The network is expected to appeal to language students since the lessons or messages are in the tongue requested.

Italian students can practice English or English-speaking Canadians can try their French and Italians with the appropriate member of the network. The system allows the members to communicate with each other in spite of the time differences.

The creators of the system say: "It's as though students were in conference. The information is exchanged almost instantly... if the Italian students send their messages to Canada at 4am (Canada time), they are held automatically until the Canadian students come to school and turn on their terminals."

Viaduct wins a reprieve

British Rail has been refused permission to demolish rather than restore a disused 125-year railway viaduct at Snaresdale Gill in Cumbria after a public inquiry last March.

British Rail had appealed against Eden District Council's refusal to allow destruction of the listed structure.

Architect to restore old heart of Edinburgh

By Ronald Faux

Mr Jim Johnson, a London-trained architect, has been given the job of restoring local life, bringing new employment and enhancing the character of buildings in Edinburgh old town, which, through neglect and planning blight, have been allowed to decay to a large scale.

It is the old town of Edinburgh, with its Royal Mile, linking the castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, that attracts tens of thousands of tourists each year. But, as Mr Johnson, the new director of the Edinburgh Old Town Committee for Conservation and Renewal, told a press conference, these splendid buildings had many neglected closes, gap sites and wynds that were in terrible condition.

Shopping facilities for local people were poor and the area had too many disused and derelict buildings behind the tourist attractions.

"You cannot treat such an historical area solely as a museum. You have to bring back some life, jobs and people living there permanently," he said.

Mr Johnson, who has worked on architectural projects in Glasgow, including pioneering work on the city's tenements, said that some mistakes had already been made in the Old Town with buildings that did not fit the surroundings.

It was crucial to maintain a mixture and diversity of buildings to make the most of the myriad of old alleyways that criss-cross the Royal Mile and the streets around it.

While tourism would doubtless benefit from any improvement, the emphasis had to be on people living and working in the area, he said.

Case opens for £1.5m damages

The parents of a severely brain damaged girl who nursed her to an astonishing recovery after a road accident yesterday began their High Court battle for almost £1.5 million damages.

"This is a remarkable and unique case of courage and persistence," Mr Michael Burton, QC for Wendy, aged 20, told Mr Justice Stuart-Smith.

In June 1982, the girl, then aged 16, was knocked down by a car after she had left home in Lodge Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, to meet a group of school friends. She was left with permanent brain damage. Doctors had been very pessimistic about her but had been "enormously impressed" by the improvement she had made.

"She was in permanent danger of death from choking or infection. She was being fed liquid food through a tube," Mr Burton said.

In June 1983, she was allowed to go home and, as a result of the special stimulation treatment by her parents, she had made "though not quite miraculous, a very, very substantial recovery indeed," Mr Burton said.

£300,000 for paralysed boy

Lewis Chee-Ho Tse, aged five, of Thistledean, Thames Ditton, Surrey, who was left paralysed in a road accident when he was seven months old, was yesterday awarded £300,000 agreed damages against his father in the High Court.

The boy was on his mother's lap in the front seat of a car driven by his father, Mr Hermann Yin-Wah Tse, when it veered off the road and hit a lamp-post.

'Cavalier' barrister rebuked by judge

A barrister who twice failed to appear in court was rebuked yesterday by a judge at the Central Criminal Court.

Judge Hazan, QC, who recommended a cut in the legal-aid fees paid to the barrister, Mr Patrick O'Connor, because of his absence, said that it seemed he had treated the matter in "cavalier fashion" while being paid by the public.

A threat to take contempt of court proceedings, or report Mr O'Connor to the Bar Council for disciplinary action, was withdrawn by the judge.

Mr O'Connor, who was defending two men, offered a "full and frank" apology, an explanation as to why he had not been present, and an assurance that it would never happen again.

He told the court that he had been engaged in cases at crown courts in Southwark and Sheffield and had not been able to be present. He regretted any discourtesy.

Judge Hazan said that he should have informed officials at the Central Criminal Court before leaving the court and taking on other work.

"This is a time when the Bar is pressing for an increase in legal-aid fees and the highest standards must be maintained," he said.

MPs protest to save clinic

MPs in the Parliamentary All-Party Penal Affairs Group are protesting to the Government at a threat to the future of the Portman Clinic, internationally renowned for its psychotherapy for offenders and sexual deviants.

Hamstead health authority and the North East Thames regional health authority say they have not enough money to run the clinic as a national centre.

Child aged four raped

A girl aged four was raped in west London on Monday, police disclosed yesterday.

Scotland Yard has appealed for information from anyone who saw a girl with long fair hair with a man in the Fulham Palace Road area of Hamstead at about 5pm.

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Controls on crossbows

The Home Office is tightening controls on the sale of crossbows because of worries about their increased use by criminals and poachers.

Shopkeepers are being asked to check that buyers are bona fide members of archery clubs. That is the same method already in use brought in earlier this year for weapons used by martial arts enthusiasts.

French unveil contender for fleet market

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The Renault 21, a new French rival for the Ford Sierra, Vauxhall Cavalier, and Austin Montego, is launched into the already fiercely contested medium family saloon and fleet car sector of the British market today.

Backed by a £4 million advertising campaign, the four-door, five-seater saloon with 1.7 or 2-litre engines will be very competitively priced, ranging from £6,485 to £10,170.

All versions have front-wheel drive and five-speed gearboxes but, unusually, only

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Gossip columnist accused of lying in libel suit

Taki Theodoropoulos, a society columnist for The Spectator, was accused of lying while giving evidence yesterday in the High Court libel action brought against him by Mrs Rosemarie Marcie-Riviere, a wealthy socialite.

Mrs Marcie-Riviere, aged 71, alleges that an article he wrote in his "High Life" column in August 1982 made her out to be a "high class tart" and a "coarse and ill-mannered woman of loose sexual morals".

Mr Theodoropoulos, aged 48, was accused of lying by Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for Mrs

Marcie-Riviere, who was cross-examining him on the fifth day of the action. The columnist claims he was trapped into going to lunch with Mrs Marcie-Riviere at her home in Greece so she could humiliate him by throwing him out "like a dog".

Mr Hartley said: "I am suggesting you are making it up as you go along." The columnist replied: "Are you suggesting I am lying under oath?" Mr Hartley said he was.

Mr Theodoropoulos claimed that the five-times married Swiss-born socialite

was a vindictive woman. He was asked by Mr Hartley whether setting a trap at the lunch party would not have been "the craziest thing in the world" for Mrs Marcie-Riviere to do.

Mr Theodoropoulos replied: "The plaintiff is a strong-willed woman. People do not say no to her because a lot of her friends depend on her for financial means."

Mrs Marcie-Riviere gaped in court at that point. Her gasps had punctuated much of the eight hours of defence evidence given by Mr Theodoropoulos.

The case continues.

Methodist debate on use of civil opposition
Soviet envoy thanks Britain
Iranian camel £319,000
NOW ANGLE
FF.
JOBS FOR
FIVE MEN
MORROW

Minister against banning cane: £20m more for GCSE books and equipment

EDUCATION BILL

Conservative MPs would be allowed a free vote on whether to retain or abolish corporal punishment in state schools in England and Wales, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in his first major speech to MPs since taking up his new job, when he moved the second reading of the Education Bill.

If the decision went in favour of abolition, he said, it would be extended to Scotland, where abolition had long been the policy.

However, Mr Baker made it clear that he would vote in favour of keeping corporal punishment, because he felt it was essential in the discipline that was necessary in schools and that head teachers, parents and the governing bodies should be allowed to retain it in a particular school if they wished.

He also announced that a further £20 million would be spent on books and equipment in schools in the current year for the introduction of the new GCSE examination. He also indicated that:

- He intended to leave in the Bill the clause relating to political indoctrination in schools.
- He accepted the clause inserted by the House of Lords about sex education in schools being provided in a way which encouraged due regard to moral considerations and family life.
- He would monitor arrangements and would then have to consider giving parents the legal right of exemption.
- There had to be sanctions against bad behaviour otherwise the head and governing body had no power.
- If the structure collapsed, no learning could take place and children became confused and bewildered. (Conservative cheers)



Baker: I will vote for corporal punishment

The Government would introduce amendments intended to ensure that local industry and commerce were represented on the governing bodies of schools.

He was keen to see the role and influence of head teachers extended.

Discipline could not be separated from education. Without discipline, no learning could take place.

The Bill accepted that it was not possible to leave discipline in elected councils on the local education authorities. Rather, discipline was the special prerogative of the head and the governing body.

The House of Lords had amended the Bill with the intention of abolishing the political indoctrination in state schools. It did not completely do that and the amendment itself would have to be amended if it was to achieve its intended aim.

In many schools, the head and the governing body believed corporal punishment should be kept as a sanction. (Conservative cheers). To deny it would weaken their position.

We believe (he said) that the whole House itself should decide whether or not corporal punishment should be retained.

We propose he continued that Conservative MPs should be allowed a free vote on this question.

If the decision is for abolition,

that would extend to Scotland, where abolition has long been the policy.

It would be appropriate for me, as Secretary of State for Education and Science, to make my own personal views known. Retention or abolition should be essentially up to the governing body, head and parents.

If they wish to retain it in a particular school, they should be allowed. That would be denied if the House decided to abolish it altogether in the state sector.

He would vote for retention of corporal punishment. (Conservative cheers).

If the view prevailed that it should be decided at local level, he expected that new governing bodies in England and Wales, with their higher parent-

and the value of family life. It was important to remember that sexual relationships should be taught and understood only as an element of wider personal relationships. It was crucially important to emphasize the moral dimension as well as the value of family life.

This was a difficult task for teachers and the parents must be involved. A draft circular on sex education in schools which was shortly to be published would emphasize that parents should be given the opportunity to see for themselves the teaching materials to be used.

It was also important that pupils should be helped to recognize the physical and emotional risks of sexual procreancy.

We owe it (he said) to the next generation to build up children's respect for healthy family life. I hope this clause will do that.

There was considerable public unease about the way in which certain people had been denied the right of freedom of speech at some universities and polytechnics. MPs had been excluded from universities and physically threatened and attacked. This sort of campus censorship was unacceptable.

The Government proposed to move amendments safeguarding freedom of speech in higher education. The House would then be able to consider the various interests of principle and practice which arose.

It was his sincere wish that a spirit of partnership rather than a spirit of resentment between the teachers and those who set the framework and secured the resources.

The key role of local authorities could be fully effective only if it was informed by systematic appraisal of teachers. The purpose of appraisal was to help all teachers realise their full professional potential by providing them with better job satisfaction, more appropriate in-service training and better planned career development.

It was his strong hope that agreement would be reached voluntarily on a national framework for appraisal in the current Act talks. But it might prove necessary for that framework to be provided or supported by statutory regulations.

He saw the relevant clause in the Bill, allowing the Secretary of State to make such regulations, as a reserve power as appraisal should be secured by agreement.

Another clause proposed that in-service training should be financed through a new specific grant.

Funds for next year would have to be determined as part of the overall local education authority settlement for 1987-88.

The Government's intention was that most types of expenditure on in-service training should be eligible under the new scheme.

Pupils would begin the new GCSE courses in September and the first exams would be

taken in the summer of 1988. The purpose of the GCSE, which combined O level and CSE grades, was to raise standards. It should help all pupils show achievement in positive terms.

All GCSE syllabuses were expected to be in schools this month. The Government had committed £10 million towards in-service training for the GCSE and was allowing schools in close for two training days this term.

The Government had already said it would pay education support grant in support of extra books and equipment for the GCSE up to a total of £10 million in 1987-88 and at least a further £10 million in 1988-89.

Over and above the substantial provision already made, he had been considering whether it was right to provide additional resources for books and equipment for GCSE courses. Local education authorities had already budgeted to spend £40 million on books and equipment this year for this purpose. But he was satisfied that in addition to the funds already committed, a further increase in expenditure was needed.

He had decided a further £20 million on books and equipment should be spent in the current year.

The additional expenditure now proposed amounted to over £4,000 per secondary school and over £30 for every fourth year pupil. In total, between £60 million and £70 million was now being targeted on the introduction of the new examination.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, moved an amendment, criticizing the Bill for failing to provide an adequate framework for the new examination.

Mr Gilles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, moved an amendment, criticizing the Bill for failing to provide an adequate framework for the new examination.

He did not believe a general clause in this manner really helped to ensure sex education was properly taught in schools. It was a matter better dealt with by the Secretary of State's own inspectors issuing advice and ensuring it was carried out.

The present situation on corporal punishment on which, in most authorities, the decision was left to the school, continued in a direct confrontation of the United Kingdom's obligation under Article 2 of the Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Baker had said that the Government would allow a free vote on the issue but how free would the free vote be? What would the payroll vote do? Some MPs: Be whipped. (Laughter).

Mr Baker: A free vote is a free vote. I made my position clear because I am the Secretary of State for this office and it was right to give the House and the educational system my personal position, but that in no way binds any other member of the Government.

We shall be voting for abolition. The Secretary of State has been yielding to pressure from the Prime Minister, and to pressure from his right wing.

Mr Patrick McLoughlin (Devon) asked Mr Baker, in his maiden speech, said although there were some bad teachers who should be removed or retrained, the vast majority were excellent and dedicated. They needed their reward. But it was no solution at all just to throw money at the problem.

This was a good Bill providing for a fundamental shift in governing bodies in the management of their schools. Schools had to be seen not as political institutions, but places where study could take place without political indoctrination.



McLoughlin: There must not be political indoctrination

encourage parental involvement.

He said in a number of key areas schools were desperately short of cash. Teachers were underpaid and demoralised. Many pupils were being deprived of educational and training opportunities. Much more needed to be done to raise educational standards.

Money was not the whole answer and resources must be more effectively managed. But

Thatcher says Rolls has to compete

AERO-ENGINES

It did no good for the efficiency of British industry to protect it from foreign competition, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said after being questioned about the purchase of aircraft engines by British Airways.

She also reported that British Airways plans to buy £700 million worth of them from America.

The subject was first raised by Mr Nicholas Leech, leader of the Opposition, who asked: Can she give an undertaking that she will use the full powers of her Government to ensure that British Airways' engine orders are placed in Britain?

Mrs Thatcher: British Airways have asked all three major aero-engine manufacturers to provide quotations — as they usually do when considering a new engine.

When they have considered the evaluations and made a judgement about how many of the aircraft they wish to acquire, they will put their proposals forward to the Secretary of State for Transport.

There are reciprocal arrangements between General Electric, Pratt and Whitney and Rolls-Royce. The essential thing is that British orders are placed on merit and performance.

Mr Kinnoch: I fully acknowledge that, but first it is necessary for British manufacturing business to stay in business in order to have the Government's support in a defence industry which she sees as a member rightly rescued Rolls-Royce from extinction and she should be much more forthright and positive to ensure that the interests of that company, its workers and its shareholders, are properly safeguarded.

Mrs Thatcher: He should agree that an efficient company should be able to win orders on merit. Rolls-Royce does. Why does he not concentrate on the possible loss of jobs if Rolls-Royce wins on merit? It is for British Airways to assess the quotations from a technological point of view. Rolls-Royce provide most of the engines for British Airways. I hope that Rolls-Royce will be able to win the order.

Mr Kinnoch: Is she going to bat for Britain? (Cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, but you do not bat for Britain by protecting industries. That is not what we are doing. We are looking for Britain, but looking for jobs in Britain, as well as this Government has done.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab): Can she believe that France, Germany Italy or the United States and all our other major competitors will not have a major company having a contract, would in any circumstances allow it to go abroad?

Mrs Thatcher: Like other industries, they have to win on merit. If Mr McNamara wants to see a return to protectionism, that is bad for exports and the standard of living.

Baker reaffirms commitment to university sector

FUNDING

Mr Kenneth Baker, in his first Commons question time appearance as Secretary of State for Education and Science, emphasized his commitment to a very strong university sector. He also reaffirmed the pledge of his predecessor, Sir Keith Joseph, that the Government would consider additional resources for universities if they demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of improvements in academic standards and cost effectiveness.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab) had asked what recent representations Mr Baker had received about resources for universities and polytechnics.

Mr Baker: I have received representations from the University Grants Committee, the National Advisory Body for the Public Sector Higher Education, institutions of higher education, MPs and individuals.

Mr Patrick Corbett (South Staffordshire, Con): Does Mr Baker have confidence in the competence of Britain's vice-chancellors? If so can he tell us how many of them are happy with the recent allocations?

Mr Baker: Some of them, yes. I have confidence in some. I do not know them all yet. Those that I have met seem decent chaps (Laughter).

I have already met the Committee of Vice-Chancellors. During the next few weeks and months I will be meeting many of them, and of course the UGC, to discuss the level of university funding.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab): It seems somewhat strange that the allocation of resources by the UGC to university departments is on the basis of research only without any reference to the standard of teaching.

Mr Baker: I think the UGC report on the relevant merits of various types of research is a very interesting document. I agree that it does not take into account the teaching of the universities. That is something that has been considered in the full round of the funds that are available to universities.

Mr Michael Latham (Ruislip and Melton, Con): Following the

speech in which Mr Baker said "enough is enough", would he confirm that this Government attaches great importance to the university sector, believes it to be an essential national resource and wants to see it develop effectively?

Mr Baker: I certainly confirm the importance of the university sector. The universities asked for level funding for 1987-88. My predecessor made clear on May 20 that the Government would consider additional resources if they demonstrated their commitment to the pursuit of improvements in academic standards, cost effectiveness and academic efficiency. I wish to confirm that pledge.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab) said Hull University had suffered particularly badly in recent years — minus 22 per cent in the past seven years. What (he asked) is Mr Baker going to do to raise the morale of teachers in these universities, to encourage students to go to them, and to recognize the enormous economic advantage of a university in an area of great deprivation and high unemployment? Any cut affects the whole community, not just the university.

Mr Baker: I pay tribute to Hull University. In my discussions with the university vice-chancellors and the UGC over the coming months I will make it clear that I am absolutely committed to a very strong university sector.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education: I congratulate him on his appointment and on saying he is committed to a strong higher education sector.

This (he said) strongly implies an increase in cash, because the fact is that higher education has been cut in real terms over a number of years and is threatened with cuts in the future.

Mr Baker: In the period of this Government there has been a net increase of some 80,000 students in higher education. When he next takes advertising space to comment upon the higher education policies of this Government, perhaps he could say that in the Thatcher years there has been an increase of 80,000 students and what he wants to see is a return to the Labour years when there was a cut of 2,600.

Minister denies plans to close universities

Replying to other changes to Opposition charges of suspension cuts, Mr George Walden, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, told MPs that he knew of no plans to close universities.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) has asserted that it was shocking that after seven years of Conservative Government, there should be talk about the possibility of closing one or more universities.

In the past seven or eight years, Scottish universities had suffered overall cuts in funding and resources of more than 10 per cent in real terms. In the coming academic year there would be further substantial cuts.

He wanted education ministers to undertake that they would fight like tigers in Cabinet for an increase in resources.

Mr Walden said the University Grants Committee had not discriminated geographically.

Mr Spencer Bathe (Elmer, Con) and Mr Michael Forsyth (Stroud, Con) said there should be a fairer method of selecting which

research projects were to receive funding in order that there should be an appeal process for those who ended up feeling aggrieved.

Mr Walden said such judgments were not arrived at haphazardly. Consultations went as wide as the Royal Society, the research councils, medical authorities and other learned bodies, as well as discipline committees. It was that impressive list was not enough, who could make such judgements?

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, Lab) said that poor pay and poor promotion chances were the major factors affecting recruitment into universities.

Mr Walden said the Government hoped that the university authorities, vice-chancellors and the Association of University Teachers would come up with some movement over flexibility, structure and open entry, which would enable another look to be taken at academic pay.

Absence causes a stir

ALLIANCE

Reports of divided opinions on defence policy between the two halves of the Alliance were responsible for loud laughter from all sides when Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, rose to ask the Prime Minister a question in the Commons.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, who usually speaks for the Alliance at Prime Minister's question time on Tuesdays, was absent from the chamber and Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said, amid the noise and pointing to Mr Steel: It was Owen's turn today!

There was renewed laughter when it became apparent that Mr Steel's question was unrelated to defence issues.

He said: Now that the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) and her former policy adviser, Sir John Hoskins, have both

advocated Britain joining the EMS, for how long is she going to resist it?

Mrs Thatcher: I give him the same reply as I have previously given to the leader of the SDP. (Laughter)

There is, at present, no intention of joining the EMS. To do so would deny us an option we have at the moment. When there is speculation against sterling there are only two ways of dealing with it if you join. The first is to use up precious reserves, which can only be done to a very limited extent. The second is by sharply putting up the interest rate.

One is denied the option of taking the strain on the exchange rate. I do not think it right to deny us that option.

Later, responding to a Conservative backbencher, Mrs Thatcher said the Conservative Party was the only party with a clear, united policy on defence, and it would make this country a reliable ally in time of trouble.

Good women needed for residuary bodies

HOUSE OF LORDS

A Government minister was accused during question time in the House of Lords of being offensive and patronizing in his remarks about women in public life.

The exchanges began when Lord Elton, Minister of State for the Environment, was asked by Lady Stedman (SDP) whether and when the Government proposed to appoint any women to the residuary bodies, following abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties.

Lord Elton: The Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Nicholas Ridley) has no plans at present to make further appointments to the residuary bodies. However, if it becomes necessary or desirable to make additional appointments, he will be guided by a person's suitability and availability; he will make no distinction between men and women for this purpose.

Lady Stedman: In an earlier written answer he told me that 10 women were considered out of 220 people considered for appointments. Is he suggesting that only 10 women in this country might be considered for such a job with all the expertise we have among women in government and local government appointments?

The Sex Discrimination Act, I would have thought, placed a duty on ministers to have regard

to the appointment of women to public bodies.

Lord Elton: The Government has not discriminated against women in its search for people to fill these positions. It considered 220 names and the search extended to the top ranks of public administration, the legal, surveying and planning professions and local business.

The fact is that there were not enough names forthcoming to satisfy the criteria Lady Stedman applies. As the tone of public and commercial life changes it is a question of good women working their way through to the top and they have not arrived there yet.

Lord Avebury (Lib): Many people will find his remark about good women fighting their way to the top offensive and patronizing. Women will never get to the top as long as the Government sets a bad example.

Lord Elton: The Government sets a good example by the composition and leadership of the Cabinet. The Government also welcomes the rise of good women in the public sector.

Lady Marjorie Corbett (Con): What is his definition of a good woman?

Lord Elton: The same for these purposes as a good man, but rather more attractive.

Lady Stedman: If the Government (SDP): There was a time when it was said a woman had to be better than a man to succeed.

Biffen hint at restoration of lost Friday

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Opposition, made clear in the Commons that there is likely to be an extra day for private members' motions to make up for the day lost on Friday because of an all-night filibuster by Conservative backbenchers.

Replying in a point of order put by Mr Peter Shore, shadow leader of the House, he indicated that when he announced the forthcoming business on Thursday he hoped to make a positive request to the Labour demands for the extra day.

The National Health Service (Amendment) Bill, removing Crown immunity in hospitals from the Food and Hygiene Regulations, received an unopposed third reading in the Commons in the early hours of today (Tuesday) dawn.

Long speeches by Labour MPs in regulation, it seemed, for the all-night sitting that prevented Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) from making a Commons attack last Friday on Mrs Thatcher.

Shortly before midnight, eight hours after the start of the debate, Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shore-ditch, Lab), intervening on a point of order, said it was

rumoured that the Government would accede to the Opposition request for a private Members' day in place of the one lost as a result of last Tuesday night's filibuster so that MPs could go to bed.

If this is going on behind the scenes (he said) should we not have a statement from the Leader of the House as to what is being arranged and what we are being offered?

The Deputy Speaker, Sir Paul Denham, replied that he knew nothing about these matters.

Each group of amendments had been discussed for about two hours and the Opposition had a concession of divisions, but not long after Mr Sedgemore's intervention on the first time a set of amendments was withdrawn.

Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross Cromarty and Skye, SDP) said later he was glad, despite the late hour, that the debate seemed to be slightly back on course and that those who were attacked from their cages on the back benches of the Labour Party seemed to be chained up once again and were back discussing this slightly more seriously.

As far as I am concerned (he

Added one side is as bad as the other

Last week's events are no better than some of the things that happened earlier this afternoon.

After the Bill had been read the third time, Mr Terry Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab), for the Opposition, said the House, Mr John Biffen, to make a statement about matters raised on Monday.

We were led to believe (he continued) that Mr Biffen had come here at this late hour to make a statement about future business.

Mr Biffen said he understood that discussions were still proceeding.

Today, after question time, he repeated that discussions between business managers in all parties were still continuing.

Monday's sitting ended at 2.51am today.

If the Prime Minister approved of the filibustering tactics used by Conservative MPs to force the cancellation of Friday's business, when Mr Tam Dalyell was due to move a motion strongly critical of her conduct, was it because she was

"frit", Mr James Craig (Glasgow, Maryhill, Lib) asked during Commons questions.

Mrs Thatcher replied that varying parliamentary tactics were used by MPs in all parties. She did not recall the Opposition conducting a filibuster against the Unborn Children (Protection) Bill tried, as a result of parliamentary devices, in present a motion by Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton, Con) and C) being reached on June 7, 1985. Mr Dalyell and Mr Peter Shore, shadow Leader of the House, had participated in that.

Mr John McWilliam (Blythdon, Lab) said that he understood Conservative MPs who denied Mr Dalyell the right to have his opinions expressed and debated in the House?

Mrs Thatcher: Labour MPs cannot bear tactics on this side of the House which they frequently have used themselves.

On March 25, 1965, the late Richard Crossman, assisted by his PPS, Mr Dwyer, dragged out debate to prevent discussions of a private member's Bill introduced by the late Mr Airey Neave on pensions for the over eighties.

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Antique dealers in legal action threat over choices for annual fair

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A group of leading London antique dealers are threatening to take their professional body to court in a dispute over selection procedures for the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, to be opened by Princess Margaret today.

They are incensed at the system for choosing participants in the annual fair, organized by the British Antiques Dealers' Association, and they maintain that it contravenes the law.

On the basis of legal advice the half dozen dealers believe they have a strong case against the association on the ground that it is giving the BADA regular exhibitors at the fair preferential treatment over those who have yet to get a pitch.

They say that as a company, as well as the trade's leading professional body, the association is required under the Companies Act to treat its shareholders, the dealer-members, fairly and give them all an equal chance to participate.

The dispute has flared up in the wake of the so-called "royal row" over the stand secured by Princess Michael of Kent in the Grosvenor House hotel foyer on behalf of MacConnell Mason, the Duke. Street dealers who made her a partner earlier this year.

In spite of successive applications for a stand at the fair, Mr David Mason says his company was turned down repeatedly. After this year's rejection the Princess managed to persuade the hotel's owner, Lord Forte, to allow the company to use the foyer.

Defending the company's action, Mr Mason said it was high time the selection procedures were made more open and regularized. "I am absolutely fed up with all this and shall be contacting my lawyer, Sir David Napley, to see what steps can be taken."

His company had been a member of the association for 50 years and yet had been put on the waiting list for the past four years.

There are 95 exhibitors at the fair and a waiting list of 100. Established exhibitors in the main are readmitted, unless their exhibits fail to come up to standard, and would-be newcomers, who do not have to be association members, must join the queue.

Yesterday Mr David Pettifer, president of the association, said that when the fair was re-started at Grosvenor House in 1983 people were asked if they wanted to participate. Those who did not are on the list and have to await a vacancy in the field of an-

tiques in which they specialized.

"We cannot just throw people out if they have come up to the required standard," he said. But there was a post-mortem at the end of each fair to see if any dealer should be refused entry in future and that did happen.

He added that because the fair had proved successful, everyone suddenly wanted to join in. "I expect if no Americans came over and we sold only 6½ pence worth of goods, everyone would be dropping out."

The original Grosvenor House antiques fair left the hotel venue some years ago after nearly 50 years when it was disrupted by industrial action and has since been re-established at Burlington House. Lord Forte re-started a fair at his hotel in 1983 with the association acting as organizers for a fee which at that time was £10,000.

That arrangement has been criticized by some past presidents of the association and chairmen of the fair who say it is inconsistent with the association's role as a professional and regulatory body and it is some of those same dealers who are now threatening legal action.



Melina Mercouri, Greek Minister for Culture, attending a Greek theatre exhibition yesterday at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Sculpture in Kent 'could be Celtic god'

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

An underground chamber found during recent roadworks in Kent may be a rare type of Celtic shrine, according to its discoverers. Among the finds was a chalk sculpture of a human figure, perhaps representing a Celtic deity.

The discovery was made during archaeological investigations ahead of construction work at Deal, east Kent, when a shaft was found out into the chalk bedrock. It was 2.5 metres (8.5 ft) deep and led to an underground chamber.

The chamber had a flat floor, with slightly concave walls, and was 1.4 metres (4.5 ft) high, so that any activity had to take place in a crouching or seated position.

The shaft and chamber had been backfilled with layers of rubble and dirt, which contained Roman domestic rubbish, including pottery. That, say Mr Keith Parritt and Mr Geoff Halliwell, of the Dover Archaeological Group, in *Assize News*, dates the chamber to the late first or early second century AD.

In the fill was a chalk figurine. The body is a rectangular shaft, tapering to a long neck.

The figure's base is cut on a bevel, so that it could not have stood upright.

Government fails to reply over research funds

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Government has failed to respond to a highly critical Commons report about its record of funding scientific research... and it is now early a year since it was published by a Conservative-dominated select committee.

It is an unwritten but usually strictly observed rule that Whitehall departments reply to reports produced by select committees within 60 days of their publication.

But for no apparent reason the Department of Education and Science has put off producing a formal response and is saying that it hopes to let the education select committee have its views by the parliamentary recess next month, a year after the report appeared.

The MPs' report on the science budget, produced after a year's inquiry which took evidence from leading figures in scientific research, concluded that the science budget was chronically under-funded and emphasized the crucial importance of science research for the nation's future. It made several recommendations to improve the position.

Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury and a select committee member, is angered by the delays. He said yesterday: "This shows that the DES is hopelessly overwhelmed by the volume of work." "It is the slowest department to respond to MPs' correspondence and I have even heard one minister is resorting to taking in his own typewriter to make some progress."

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He said that some of the research councils who had given evidence to the select committee were desperate about the inertia of the government machine.

Greaves apologizes

Jimmy Greaves, who was in England's 1966 World Cup squad, yesterday apologized for "an unintended slip made in the heat of the moment" in his career as a sport commentator.

He suggested on television that Mr Peter Willis, the referee, sent off a Manchester United player in the 1985 Cup

Final "to get his name in history before he retires". Mr Willis sued Mr Greaves and London Weekend Television alleging libel.

In the settlement announced yesterday in the High Court, Mr Greaves agreed to meet legal costs and make a payment to the Referees' Association Benevolent Fund.

Architect says flats must go

By Charles Kneritt, Architecture Correspondent

The Hawkridge tower block, in Camden, north London, cannot be repaired and should be demolished, Mr Sam Webb, the architect who is advising the tenants, said yesterday. He also said that problems with the block, built in the Rohna system of construction, were not an isolated incident.

Camden council announced on Monday that the main gas supply will be turned off on Friday, after last week's disclosure in *The Times* that the block does not comply with the structural regulations introduced in the wake of the Ronan Point disaster in 1968.

It plans to strengthen the 10 and 14-storey block, linked by a common landing, and liftshaft, and restore the gas.

Mr Webb said: "The block is not safe, whatever the council does with it."

The architect called for the council's chief engineer to be brought in and order a full analysis of the structure, its behaviour in a fire and the quality of workmanship which went into its construction in 1964.

Half duty GPs get called out

By Robin Young

Half the general practitioners on call expect to leave their beds at least once a night to visit a patient, and nearly a quarter expect to go out on two calls or more, according to a newly published survey. Almost two thirds expect their sleep to be interrupted at least once to answer the telephone.

The survey, carried out by Taylor Nelson Medical for the medical magazine *Pulse*, also showed that only an eighth of GPs did no night duties, and a twelfth were never on call at weekends. At the other end of the scale 9 per cent were on call every night of the week, and a similar proportion for more than 40 weekends a year.

Stalker move

Mr John Stalker, Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, had a meeting yesterday with Mr Donald Shaw, Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. Mr Roger Pannouse, solicitor acting for Mr Stalker, said there would be no further statement for 14 days "unless disciplinary inquiries have been concluded before then".

Violent crime: 3

When survival is the main target

At one jail, prisoners who have committed violence encourage each other in group therapy to face the horrors of what they have done. At another, lifers face days merging into years. Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, meets one prisoner who almost did not.

The old murderer, long wise to the ways of the nick, looked up and said: "I was within two hours of the death sentence when I was in the condemned cell for eight weeks at Winchester prison."

"It was to take place at 8am. I had my last meal brought in at 6am: eggs and bacon and some toast and a big mug of tea. I didn't ask for nothing; it was automatically brought. I didn't eat it."

"I stayed up all night playing cards with two officers on duty, Mr Palmer and Mr Broad. The deputy governor came in with a statement saying I had been reprieved."

"How the judge summed up before he put his black cap on counted in my favour. About eight doctors had come into the visiting room. I had tried to take my own life. They re-examined the evidence."

The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Albert came out once on licence in 1971, got married and had six children, he says, but he was recalled in 1981 after trouble with a neighbour.

Now survival is the name of the game. "I keep myself to myself. I'm very bitter about what is happening to me. Only the atmosphere of Kingston prison keeps me sane. It is free and easy and more relaxed than other prisons."

"My wife divorced me, I never see the children and don't know when I am going to get out."

Kingston, Portsmouth, is the lifers' prison. But it does not house the most vicious killers. Kingston's may have hit too hard, squeezed too

hard or too long. One said that he had acted to redress a grievance, another that his was a crime passionnel.

The man who is arguably the best potter in the prison system - he has awards to show for it - has £566 in his building society and a Yamaha Portasound in his cell with a keyboard that can turn simple fingering into something more. The chief officer lends him sheet music.

The pots are special. The technique has only recently been revived, the Victoria and Albert Museum says in correspondence. That prisoner helped to revive it. The money comes from the sale of pots through outlets created for prisoners.

Doing is surviving for him, after 13 years inside. He has a sense of humour but "remorse doesn't go out of my system. You just think, if you could only turn the clock back. Alas, you can't. Sometimes you get rough nights. Taking life is the bottom of the barrel."

Prisoners at Kingston want to get out as soon as possible. At Grendon Underwood prison, staff say "quite a few" prisoners will decline to be considered for parole when their time comes because they feel they need more therapy.

They face up to what they have done - murder, stabbing, wounding, rape - in frank group discussions.

But behind the mask of toughness, the violent offender may attack out of fear. One said he attacked a man because he did not like the way he was talking to him. "He kept calling me 'son', made me look small in front of the others." He now admits he felt fear, because the man came across as aggressive.

"I had the image of a hard little man. It's the first time I have accepted fear. Before I came I would never have admitted: I was scared. It doesn't go with the image."

Concluded.



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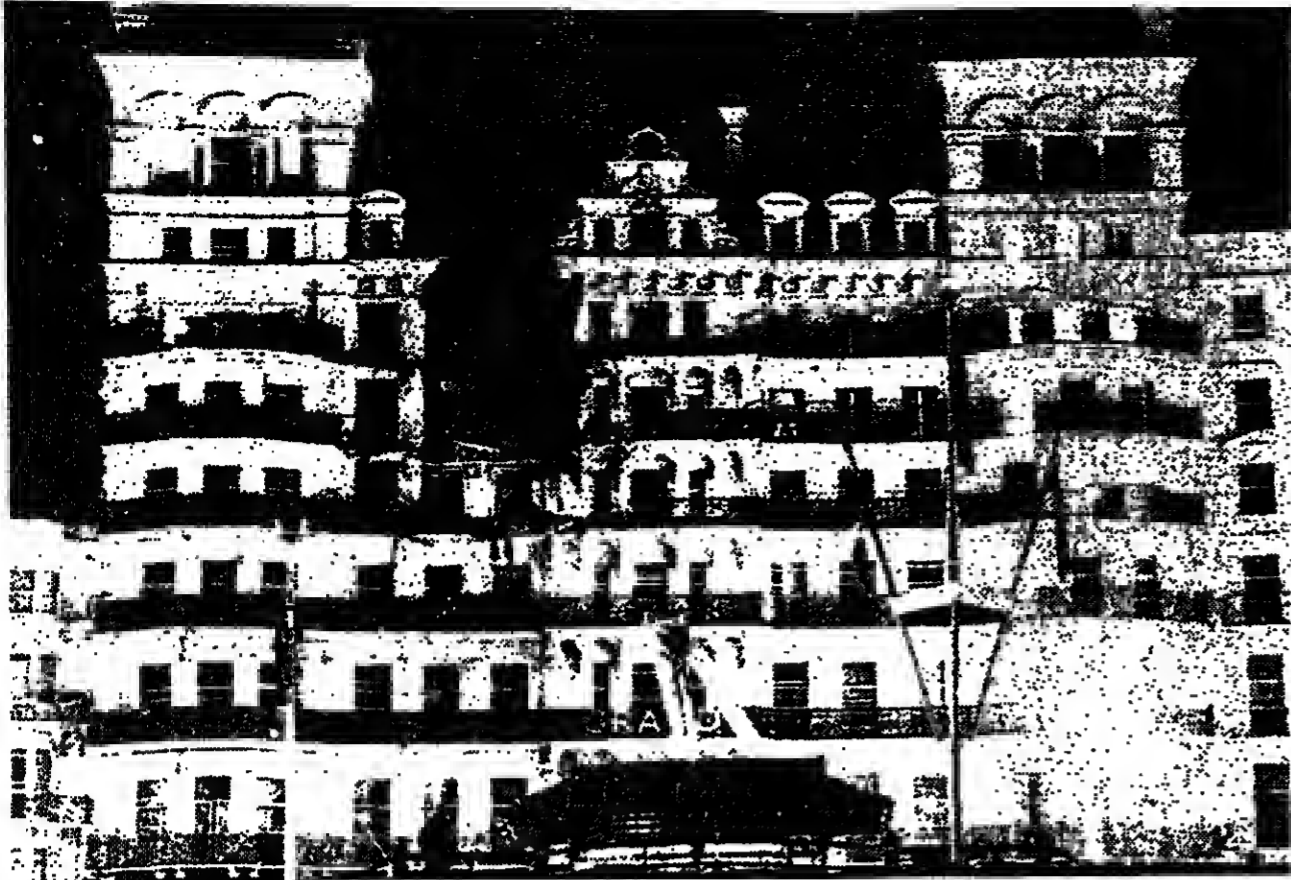
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THE BRIGHTON BOMBER

Magee guilty of 'one of worst acts of terrorism'



The Grand Hotel at Brighton bathed in light after the explosion which wrecked several rooms and claimed five lives, and the rescue of Mr Norman Tebbit, who was trapped by rubble for several hours (Hotel photograph: John Manning).

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

A jury at the Central Criminal Court found Patrick Magee guilty yesterday of "one of the worst acts of terrorism in this country" when they convicted him of the Brighton hotel bombing after a trial lasting more than five weeks.

Magee was accused of planting a bomb with a timed delay behind a panel in the bathroom of room 629 at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, before the Conservative Party's annual conference in 1984.

When the bomb exploded, early on the morning of October 12, it killed five people and injured 34. The court was told that some victims suffered the "nightmare experience" of falling to the bottom of the building and then being covered by debris.

Magee booked room 629 in mid-September for a weekend. The bomb was said to include 20 to 30lb of explosives and had a one-hour timer coupled to a 24-day timer.

Room 629 was taken on September 15 in the name of Roy Walsh, who came in off the street to make the booking.

He paid more than £180 in cash and £50 later for other items when he checked out.

During the trial evidence was given that the occupant of room 629 ate one meal in the hotel restaurant during the stay, and had a number of items of food and drink brought by staff. One waiter remembered delivering items to the room when he thought that two people were present.

After the explosion police checked registration cards for room 629 and found the card for Mr Walsh, who lived at an address in south London. He was not known at that address.

Walsh proved to be the only guest in the hotel over a 48-day period who was not accounted for.

Police fingerprint experts who worked on the registration card discovered a palm print which was matched to records for Magee. A second print was later also matched to Magee from the card.

A handwriting expert told the court that there were similarities between Magee's handwriting and the handwriting of Walsh on the registration card.

Magee was arrested in a

police raid on a flat in Langside Road, Glasgow, last June 22, almost a year ago.

During the trial Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, told the court that the police discovered what he claimed was "an outrageous plot to wreak havoc", in which timed devices were to be left in 12 resorts in ports and at four targets in London.

With Magee in the flat were Gerard McDonnell, aged 34; Peter Sherry aged 30; Martina Anderson, aged 34, and Ella O'Dwyer, aged 27. All have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to cause explosions.

The jury will continue today to consider its verdicts on Magee and the others for the conspiracy charge.

The court was told that the cache was found in a cellar at James Grey Street, Glasgow, near the first address that was raided. The cache, prosecuting counsel said, was "one of the most significant and deadly collections of terrorist equipment ever found in this country".

Bombs were to have 16-day or 24-day timers. On an alleged bomb calendar, found on Mr McDonnell, were details of a device at the Rubens

Hotel in London, opposite Buckingham Palace Mews.

The police found a device in room 112 in a lunch box. It was booby-trapped and contained 3 1/2lb of gelignite.

Mr Amlot alleged that Magee booked into the hotel on June 15 last year using the false name of Y Munron and an address in Watford. His fingerprints were discovered later on the hotel registration card and the alleged bomb calendar.

Magee did not give evidence in his defence on any charges. Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, questioned police and a fingerprint expert about the evidence, telling the jury that Magee had been framed by police trying to redeem their credibility after the Grand Hotel bombing.

During the defence case the court was told that Magee was brought up in Norwich, where he had three convictions as a juvenile. In 1979 a warrant was issued for Magee after explosions in 1978-79 in the south of England.

An attempt to extradite Magee from the Netherlands in 1980 failed.

Under cross-examination by the defence, Superintendent George Stepney, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, told the court that he did not know Magee had been interned between 1973 and 1975.

He told the court that the fingerprints of several people suspected of being involved in the 1978-79 explosions had been found at addresses in London, some of those prints had been identified as those of Magee. Two men, Gerard Tuite and John McComb, had stood trial for the explosions and Magee was awaiting trial.

During the trial details of the injuries to some of the victims in the Brighton bombing were given to the court. Mr Gordon Shattock described falling from the sixth floor of the hotel to the basement. Sir Donald McLean also described the moment when the bomb went off and his wife was killed.

The court was told that Mr Shattock's wife was blown through a wall, across a corridor and into another room. She died instantaneously.

Mr Norman Tebbit, who was then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and his wife were in a room near the explosion. The court was told how Mr Tebbit lay trapped by rubble before he and his wife were found by a fireman.

Mr John Wakeham was trapped by the legs and in spite of severe pain was worried about his wife who had been in bed beside him. She died as did the wives of Sir Donald and Mr Shattock.

The court was told that rooms numbered 28 on each floor collapsed in a column with the blast. The Shattocks were in 628, the Taylors in 528, the Wakehams in 428, the Berrys in 328, and Mr and Mrs Tebbit in 228.



The victims: Sir Anthony Berry



Mrs Jeanne Shattock



Mrs Roberta Wakeham

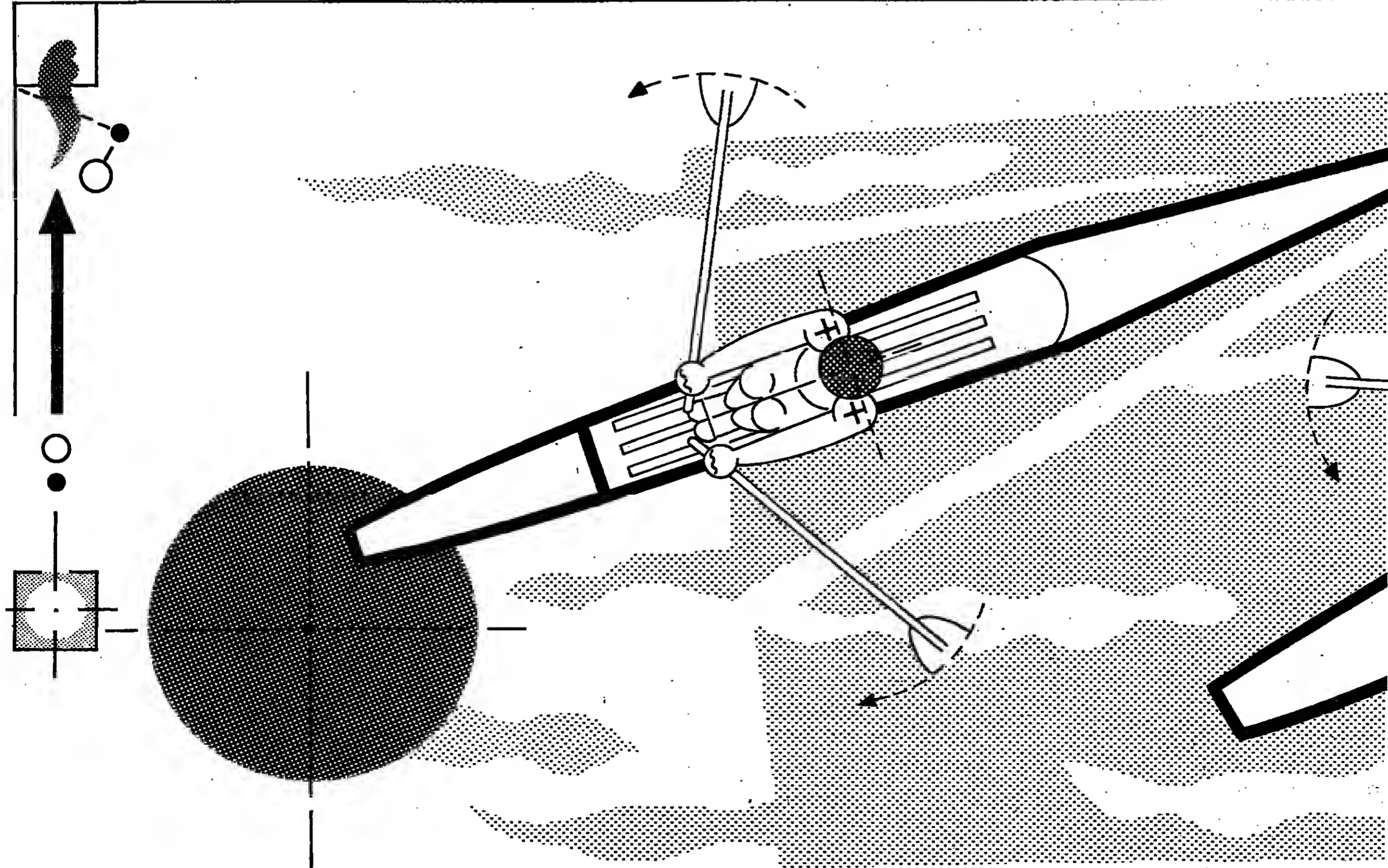


Mrs Muriel McLean



Mr Eric Taylor

SOMETIMES IT TAKES



J.P. McComb

Second Vienna leader resigns in wake of Waldheim poll victory

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

The swift departure of Dr Fred Sinowatz from the Austrian Chancellorship was followed yesterday afternoon by the resignation of Dr Leopold Gratz, the Foreign Minister.

Dr Gratz, who is widely known to be hostile towards Dr Kurt Waldheim, who was elected President on Sunday, was expected to resign with the Chancellor on Monday, but delayed the announcement while debate continued about a possible successor.

The position of Foreign Minister is of vital importance to good relations between the Austrian Chancellor and the President. No successor has yet been named.

Man in the News

Pinstripe banker in top role

From Our Correspondent, Vienna

Dr Franz Vranitzky, who will be sworn in formally as Austria's Chancellor on Monday, has enjoyed a meteoric rise unparalleled in the history of Austrian politics since the Second World War.

A banker by profession whose pinstriped suit cuts an unusual figure in the Austrian Socialist Party, Dr Vranitzky, aged 49, has only had 18 months of Cabinet experience.

Before joining Dr Fred Sinowatz's Government in September 1984, as Finance Minister, Dr Vranitzky was the general director of the Austrian Länderbank. His expertise turned that concern virtually overnight from a less-making, overstuffed organization into one of Austria's most profitable banks.

He is on the right wing of the Socialist Party.

Younger on Athens visit

Athens - Mr George Younger, the British Defence Secretary, paid a working visit here yesterday for talks with his Greek counterpart, Mr Yiannis Haralambopoulos (Mario Modiano writes).

The British Embassy said that the ministers had agreed to "explore areas for joint co-operation in the field of armaments and the arms industry".

Nyerere party doubts

Lusaka (AP) - The former Tanzanian President, Mr Julius Nyerere, has expressed doubts about the viability of the one-party political system in his country, Zambian newspapers said yesterday.

Mr Nyerere, aged 64, said that the single-party system breeds complacency among the electorate and their elected representatives because "there is an absence of political challenge to keep the leaders of the ruling party on their toes".

Waldheim's decisive election victory.

Supporters of Dr Waldheim said that whatever happens to Austria, Dr Sinowatz's resignation alone had made Dr Waldheim's election as President worthwhile for the country.

Radical Socialist politicians said that the only hope of the party's renewing itself was to jettison the Chancellor and ministers who had been identified in the Austrian mind with the crises of the last three years, a leading Socialist journalist claimed.

The Socialists concede that Dr Sinowatz's departure, following Dr Waldheim's election, was virtually inevitable. Not only was it necessary to satisfy the party's desire for a scapegoat, but many Socialist politicians believed that Dr Sinowatz's remaining in office would have caused considerable friction between the Government and the new head of state.

Iran attempts new move for Beirut peace

Beirut - An Iranian envoy who has launched new efforts to secure a ceasefire between Shia Muslim militiamen and Palestinian guerrillas yesterday said he will not leave "until a truce is consolidated".

Mr Mohammed Ali Becharati, Iran's deputy Foreign Minister, said that his mission included efforts to bring about peace between the Shia Amal militia and Sunni Muslim groups, which fought fiercely in West Beirut in a spillover of the Shia-Palestinian confrontation last week.

Like previous efforts by Algeria and Syria, Mr Becharati's peace mission has failed to stop the fighting, but the battles in the camps have subsided into sniper fire and sporadic grenade attacks.

Chirac beset by staff and employers

Paris Metro and his services are expected to be brought to a standstill today as unions strike in protest against Government cutbacks in subsidies on public transport and a freeze on public-sector wages.

The 24-hour strike is one of a series of actions planned to follow the one-day strike by television unions and railway workers last month. Further stoppages are planned tomorrow on the railways and in the gas and electricity services, and a "day of action" has been called for Tuesday by civil servants and post office staff.



The New Zealand town of Otorohanga proudly proclaiming its new identity as Harrodsville with tongue-in-cheek signs

Harrodsville takes on London store

From Richard Long, Wellington

Signs have gone up all over the little New Zealand town of Otorohanga proclaiming that the settlement is now called Harrods.

The clothing shops did it, so did the banks. Even the Chinese take-away sprouted the new place name. It was all because the Kensington department store had sent solicitors' letters to several businesses in New Zealand complaining about their using

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US jumbo freed by Peru after fine paid

Los Angeles (AFP) - A PanAm jumbo jet, held for eight hours in Peru for straying into Peruvian airspace without permission, arrived here after the airline paid a \$5,000 (£3,350) fine.

A PanAm spokesman denied rumours that the Boeing 747 had been forced down by a fighter, saying that the pilot agreed to land on instruction from Lima control tower. He played down the incident, adding: "We were in the wrong; we did not have the right to fly over their space."

US civilian aircraft have been barred from Peruvian airspace since 1984, when Lima failed to renew an air traffic agreement.

Karpov keeps chess lead

Bugojno, Yugoslavia (Reuters) - Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union maintained his lead in the chess Grand Masters Tournament after adjourning a game with Yugoslavia's Ljubomir Ljubovic in the 12th round.

Karpov said that this is his last tournament before meeting his compatriot, Gary Kasparov, for the world title in London next month.

Berlin riot

Berlin (AP) - Sixty demonstrators were arrested and 19 police officers injured in West Berlin when about 300 people protested against alleged police brutality against anti-nuclear demonstrators in Hamburg over the weekend.

Eta warning

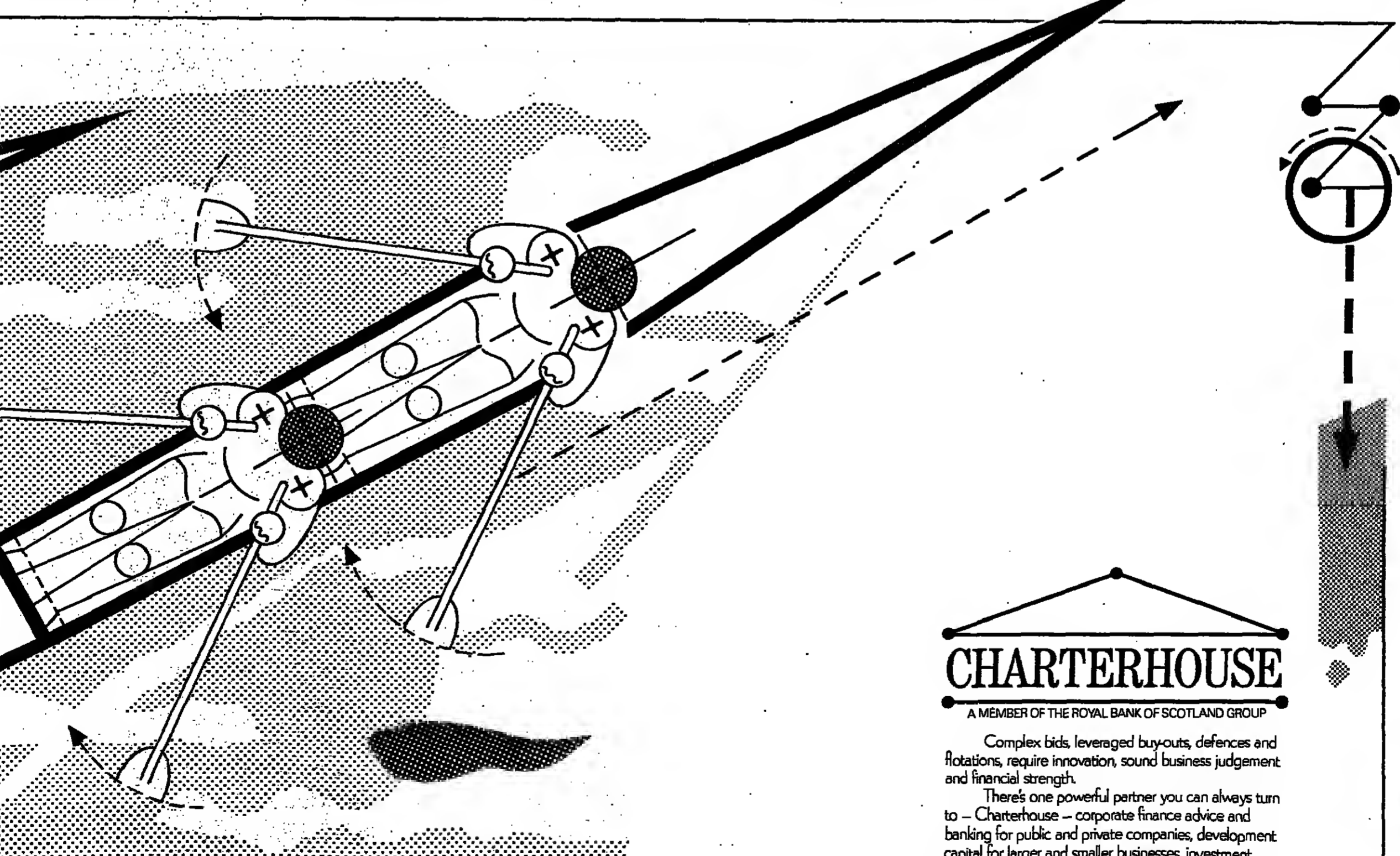
Bilbao (AFP) - The military wing of the Basque separatist group, Eta, has sent letters warning 200 embassies, travel agencies and foreign media that tourists are in danger from its Mediterranean bombing campaign.

Wages of sin

Messina, Sicily (Reuters) - Signor Calogero Lo Ricco, a wartime aviator who was given a suspended three-month jail sentence for "indelicacy in a public place" for kissing his future wife in 1941, now stands to lose his veteran's pension because of his conviction. The Treasury wants him to repay the £5,700 he has already drawn.

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Port-au-Prince halted by strike as pressure on Namphy increases

From Christopher Thomas, Port-au-Prince

Thousands of impoverished 33-a-day workers - baseball equipment makers, electronic assemblers, lathe operators and textile machinists - went on strike in Haiti yesterday. In Port-au-Prince, the capital, they flocked to church for the funeral of a victim of the unrest gripping the island.

The drag grey factory units at the edge of the city were deserted save for some men aimlessly sweeping the road. Normally 9,500 men and women swarm through the gates for the 10-hour day, carried in the slums in gaily-painted little buses known as Tap-Taps.

Yesterday the normally teeming streets were miraculously empty of Tap-Taps, and of the hooting, yelling and cursing that they inspire. If people had wanted to get to work from the big slum called Carrefour, where most of the workers live, they would have had to walk the five miles each way.

At Wilsons, which makes baseballs for the American professional leagues, row upon row of closely-packed Dickensian wooden benches stretching the length of the factory stood empty.

Nearly every shop in Port-au-Prince was closed. Few vehicles were in the narrow

streets, perhaps out of the knowledge that smashing windscreens is good sport in times of strife.

At 10am an enormous crowd marched solemnly to St Gerard's Church to bury Dumy Debestre, aged 23, who was shot last Thursday by soldiers in Carrefour.

The affair has seriously damaged the considerable goodwill the peasants have for the Army. Dumy Debestre was in a crowd that was attacking a police car with sticks and machetes while two policemen cringed inside.

Gonaives, 60 miles to the north of the capital, did not join the strike, preferring to make its own battles with the authorities.

General Henri Namphy, president of the ruling National Council, has asked to speak to the town's leaders in the hope of ending their campaign of civil unrest. The town held a mass meeting on Monday night and failed to agree on the terms of such an encounter.

Ten miles away, people danced feverishly in the streets of Carrefour Alexis after murdering a voodoo priest and burning the house of a woman associate. Voodoo was a weapon of the ousted Duvalier regime, and thus it is now rejected and its priests

hounded. The priest was left lying in a ditch, while the woman's house burned, with her body inside.

The success of the strike in Port-au-Prince is a serious blow to the military-dominated government, which had hoped its promise of elections next year might have calmed the atmosphere.

It is now under even greater pressure to meet the political leaders' main demand to dismiss Colonel Williams Régala, a member of the junta and the real power in the beleaguered government.

If he went, General Namphy would have little choice but to disband the Government and try to form one more acceptable to the political leaders.

Fifty people called one local radio station in Port-au-Prince yesterday morning to say they had not gone to work because they were afraid. Government officials insist that most peasants would have worked had they not been intimidated.

Some moderate political leaders expressed reservations about the strike hours before it started, but in the main it had overwhelming support from the many politicians now trying to fill the political vacuum.



Mr Hu Yaobang chats with a group of schoolchildren on the bank of the river Avon during his visit to Stratford yesterday.

Hu turns tourist on second day of visit

By Rodney Cowton

Mr Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, yesterday turned tourist for the second full day of his four-day visit to Britain. His visit is one of the most important paid to Britain by a member of any Chinese hierarchy.

His itinerary took him to Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford, and a dinner given for him by Lord Stockton, Chancellor of Oxford University, at Balliol College.

This relatively relaxed day followed a busy schedule on Monday which had included two hours of conversations with Mrs Thatcher. These covered a wide range of subjects, but were dominated by relations between the two countries over Hong Kong, and the desire of both to expand their mutual trade.

The most substantive event to emerge so far from the visit was the signing on Tuesday of a memorandum of understanding intended to finance studies in Britain by about 350 Chinese a year for the next 10 years.

The bulk of the cost of the £35 million scheme is being met by the Chinese Government and the Y.K. Pao Foundation of Hong Kong.

Russia looks at fallout compensation

From Roger Boyes, Budapest

The Soviet Union has raised the possibility of paying compensation to foreign food producers who suffered from the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, but stresses that financial losses were almost impossible to calculate.

Mr Valery Legasov, of the Kurchatov Nuclear Research Institute, said yesterday that he was not an economist, but

that when the damage could be seen, measures could be taken. "We are holding discussions in a very concrete way."

He said that Sweden could receive compensation if it could be proved that damage to crops was the result of fallout from Chernobyl.

Hungarian officials say that Hungary could lose some £100 million as a result of the EEC ban on food imports from eastern Europe last month.

and Poland estimates its losses at £33 million.

Mr Legasov said that an application for compensation from West Germany was rendered more difficult because of a domestic nuclear leak.

He said that if citizens abandoned their work because of misinformation and exaggerated reports then this economic damage should be laid at the door of the media rather than blamed on the nuclear power plant management.

● MOSCOW: Two elderly Soviet women stayed secretly in their homes near the Chernobyl reactor for more than a month after the April 26 disaster, until being discovered and taken to hospital (Christopher Walker writes).

Anastasia Semenyaka, aged 85, and Maria Karpyenok, aged 74, avoided the initial evacuation and came out into the open only at the end of last month.

Tragedy of Crossroads

Old guard battles the young radicals

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The origins of the tragedy of Crossroads, the black shanty town outside Cape Town, go back more than 10 years, when impoverished rural blacks began settling on land left vacant for an extension of the airport.

They came overwhelmingly from the Xhosa-speaking tribal homelands of Transkei and Ciskei several hundred miles to the east, driven by the need to find a livelihood for themselves and their families.

The influx conflicted with the "pass laws" used to check the flow of blacks to the cities. In the Western Cape, these were doubly severe, as preference was given to Coloureds in the allocation of jobs.

Despite repeated police raids and demolition of the corrugated tin "huts", wood shacks, Crossroads grew steadily. Before the fighting of the past few weeks, it was estimated to house between 100,000 and 200,000 people.

At its simplest, the conflict is between old-guard leaders of the settler community, some of whom have been resisting removal for a decade, and more recent arrivals: young radicals committed to the wider political struggle that is tearing apart scores of black townships.

The youths call themselves "comrades", the generic term in the townships for the Young Turks belonging to the myriad bodies affiliated to the United Democratic Front, the anti-

apartheid umbrella group.

The old-guard leader is Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, a Crossroads veteran who has seen off many rival groups in his time and who once ran the settlement as his private fiefdom, exacting tithes and rents from other squatters.

Mr Ngxobongwana's vigilantes are known as *witloeks* (white cloths), from the white arm and head bands they wear, and also as "the fathers", a term widely used in the townships for older conservative blacks.

A complicating element is overwhelming evidence - from eye-witnesses as well as affidavits lodged by Crossroads residents - that the police and Army have aided and abetted the *witloeks* in their attacks on other groups.

Another factor was the Government's decision last year to redevelop Crossroads as permanent housing for those settlers who had been there the longest. The more recent immigrants were to be moved to Khayelitsha, a black housing area started in 1983 on sandy coastal scrubland 20 miles from Cape Town.

This was the prize for which Mr Ngxobongwana and his followers had long been struggling. But as fast as squatters were moved - by a mixture of persuasion and coercion - to Khayelitsha, still more flooded into Crossroads, threatening to delay the redevelopment.

Mines hit Natal border

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

A white schoolboy and two black farm workers were injured yesterday in two landmine explosions near Volksrust, on the border between South-Eastern Transvaal and North-Western Natal.

Martin Coetzer, aged 18, was said to be in a serious condition in a local hospital. He was on his way to school in Volksrust when the lorry in which he was travelling detonated a mine at about 7:20am near his parents' farm.

A tractor detonated a second mine buried in a dirt road on another farm in the area at about 10:15am. Two black

workers, Mr Elias Shabangu, aged 23, and Mr Lucas Lushaba, aged 25, received chest and leg injuries.

About a dozen whites and blacks have been killed or injured in landmine explosions in remote rural areas in the past seven months.

The first incidents occurred along Transvaal's northern border with Zimbabwe at the end of last year and there were three several in the Eastern Transvaal.

Responsibility has usually been claimed by the African National Congress.

Chastened Nasa starts to rebuild

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The United States space programme can never be the same after the devastating Rogers Commission report, all the more telling for its restraint and refusal to apportion direct blame.

Nasa has already begun, but it will take years for the troubled agency to regain the self-confidence and the management expertise to pioneer the way ahead. Until then, there will be further delays in the shuttle launches, with indefinite postponement of the "citizens in space" programme and expensive redesigning of components.

Questions will also inevitably arise over the wisdom of staking so much on space technology, especially the development of the Strategic Defence Initiative. The Administration will be hard pressed to counter public scepticism with the space programme.

One immediate issue is a decision on whether to replace the Challenger. President Reagan has indicated that he is

willing to spend the \$2.8 billion (£1.8 billion) to get the shuttle programme back on track.

Congress has given a warm welcome to the commission's report, chaired by Mr William Rogers, which it believes pinpoints the technical and psychological failures at Nasa. It has also been encouraged by the contrite attitude and promises of thoroughgoing reform from Dr James Fletcher, the former Nasa Administrator brought back to head it.

But Congress yesterday began hearings of its own, and will have to decide whether to increase Nasa funding.

The agency has promised to implement the reforms outlined in the report: a tighter and more centralized management structure, greater emphasis on safety and internal communication, less reliance on cosy arrangements with monopoly contractors, and a mission schedule that is both realistic and affordable.

Leading article, page 17

Just what a secretary needs: a secretary.

At IBM, we've realised something you probably realised a long time ago:

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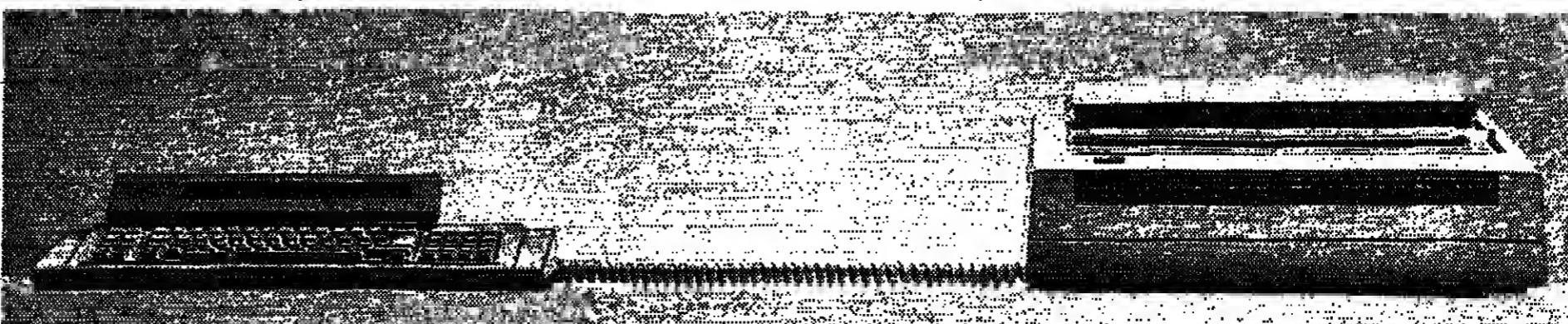
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Or if you could use a secretary that answers back, you could use Spellcheck, which tells you where there are spelling errors.

The IBM System/2000.

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MEN WANTED for Hazardous Journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success - Ernest Shackleton.

THE TIMES 1000

Dear Mr Shackleton, we're sorry but...

...As a polar explorer you were highly successful, but as an employer you leave a lot to be desired.

The advertisement above may be the most famous "employment ad" ever written, but it would be completely unacceptable to the YTS.

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Fortunately over 100,000 employers in Britain more than match these requirements, including Shell UK, ABTA and GEC. Frankly Mr Shackleton, we think they offer a warmer reception.

Arms strategy across East-West divide

Secretive Pact leaders weigh the value of open Gorbachov policy

The leaders of the Warsaw Pact yesterday huddled, secretly as cardinals in conclave, in a Budapest government house to discuss a new arms proposal to the West.

From Roger Boyes, Budapest arms specialist in the Soviet delegation at Budapest, hinted on Monday night that Moscow regarded the talks — which deal only with the seven countries along the East-West divide — as ineffective.

do exist — on the level of defence spending, the appropriate response to the US Star Wars programme and the relative weight of independent foreign policy — hardly figure at this summit.

Nato predicts a breakthrough

From Frederick Bonart, Brussels

The deadlock in arms control negotiations may be broken in the near future. There is cautious optimism in Nato that three recent connected events will lead to results.

to be matched by a balance of conventional forces in the whole of Europe. A Nato task force is being set up to work urgently towards this objective.

Britain and US blamed on test ban

Stockholm (Reuters) — One of the world's leading peace research groups, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), has criticized the United States and Britain for having failed to join the Soviet Union ban on nuclear weapons testing.

Chemical weapons ban close

From Alan McGregor, Geneva Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, said yesterday that all technical and legal points of a chemical weapons ban had been examined.



Girls at a massage parlour in north-eastern Thailand wait for customers under a banner exhorting citizens to vote in next month's general election. The message is: 'July 27 is election day. If you love democracy, you must vote.'

Bonn secretary spied with camera in a lipstick

Bonn — The insecurity of East German spy-masters was revealed in Bonn yesterday in a report on a senior secretary who was given a camera concealed in a lipstick to photograph documents at her desk in the West German President's office.

But she was unable to manage the gadget, and had to take the papers home with her. She is still being questioned.

The story came out in a report on internal security for 1985 presented yesterday by Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Bonn Interior Minister.

West Germans arrested last year on suspicion of spying for the East. Zimmermann said that left-wing terrorism had increased in 1985, with 1,604 acts of violence, compared with 1,263 in 1984.

Israel's £135 atlas censored by minister

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem A page is to be removed from all copies of the prestigious new Israel Atlas on the orders of Mr David Levy, the Israeli Minister of Housing, who says that there is a political message in two paragraphs.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE advertisement. It features a large, stylized graphic of the words 'THE STOCK EXCHANGE' and a list of 100 unlisted companies with their names and share prices. The list includes companies like 'A SECURITY ELECTRONICS', 'INTERNATIONAL ACCOR COMPUTER', and 'BIO-MEDICAL SYSTEMS'. The ad also contains text about the Unlisted Securities Market and the benefits of listing on the Stock Exchange.

Nakasone lunch helps party rivals to offer electors a united front

Tokyo (Reuters) — Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday patched up divisions in the Liberal Democratic Party in order to present a united front for next month's general election.

He held a lunch at his residence attended by the Foreign Minister, Mr Shimomura Abe, the Finance Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, and a former Foreign Minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

All three, seen as Mr Nakasone's rivals for the party leadership, agreed to his request to "do our best with the (party) president" in the July 6 poll, according to party sources.

Mr Nakasone's aim was to rebut allegations in the media and in political circles that his decision to call elections 18 months ahead of schedule had divided the leadership.

Under party rules he must step down as party president and Prime Minister in October, because he will have served the maximum two terms of two years each. He has denied that he will seek to change the rules to gain a third term, but opponents are sceptical.

His apparent success in rallying party unity was undermined, however, when papers reported that Mr Abe had expressed displeasure at a separate meeting with the Prime Minister over the 311 Liberal Democrats named on Monday as candidates for the Lower House. He was said to be unhappy that only 111 of the 26 new nominees of his faction had been approved.

The strength of support available to party faction chiefs will be vital in deciding the shape of the post-election leadership and the Cabinet.

The sources said that it was agreed yesterday not to alter the tax system for the time being. Opposition politicians have said that the Government was considering a value-added tax.

In the 1979 general election, the Liberal Democrats, led by the late Masayoshi Ohira, suffered a severe setback after having included taxes as a campaign issue.

With his own political future hanging on the party's showing in the polls, Mr Nakasone has set a modest target: a simple majority in the 512-seat Lower House.

"We need at least 257 seats to get Bills approved (but) would like to add as many seats as possible," he told party officials. The party had 249 seats in the old House and had to rely on eight votes from a coalition partner.



Villagers of Siritura, near Trincomalee in north-eastern Sri Lanka, looking down on the bodies of fellow Sinhalese villagers killed recently by Tamil extremists. Government security forces are expecting an attack on their main Northern Province base at the Jaffna Fort, according to security sources (Vijitha Yapa writes). Military

intelligence is believed to have intercepted signals between Tamil guerrilla groups indicating preparations for an onslaught by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. In Colombo, President Jayewardene is expected to brief his Cabinet today on a letter from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on the crisis.

Taiwan editors go to jail for libel

Taipei (Reuters) — Three Taiwanese dissident magazine editors began jail sentences for libel yesterday after a demonstration through the night by thousands of supporters.

The editors of *Neo-Fornaxia* magazine, draped with floral garlands, were cheered and clapped as they drove to jail from the offices of the Taipei

city council, where they staged an 18-hour protest.

Opposition politicians spoke in support of press freedom as about 5,000 well-wishers turned the rally into a noisy party. They accused the courts of trying to muzzle the Opposition.

The three were jailed for eight months each and the

magazine was fined two million Taiwan dollars (£34,000) for printing articles accusing a philosophy professor of plagiarizing an academic thesis.

One of the stiffest libel verdicts in Taiwan, it has resulted in a temporary freeze in relations between the Opposition and the ruling Nationalist Party.

Hunt for Marcos hoard 'Raiders of the lost wealth' net \$750m

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A total of \$750 million (£480 million) in cash and property believed to have been acquired illegally by Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the deposed Philippines president, and his associates has been seized by a government commission widely known as the "Raiders of the lost wealth".

In a report on its first 100 days of operation, the five-member Commission on Good Government have reported to President Aquino that it had seized bank deposits, jewellery, cars, aircraft, ships, real estate and shares in 218 companies.

About 80 per cent of the assets are owned by Mr Marcos and 18 family members, relatives and cronies of the former president, who fled to Hawaii in February after being toppled by a civilian-backed military revolt.

The sequestered assets do not include an estimated \$10 billion that Mr Marcos, his family and friends are alleged to have deposited abroad during his 20-year regime.

The commission said that more than 16 billion shares, with a par value of \$10.7 million, were sequestered, as well as \$73 million in Treasury bills, bank deposits and currency.

Sequestered jewellery was appraised at \$15.5 million.

In addition, two jets and five propeller-driven planes, eight vessels and 70 vehicles, including luxury, vintage and sports cars, were seized.

Among 46.6 million square yards of sequestered property were 21.7 million square yards of the agricultural land of Mr Eduardo Cojuangco, one of the closest business colleagues of Mr Marcos.

Mr Cojuangco, known as the "Coconut King", who fled with Mr Marcos, now wants to

return home and is prepared to face charges against him, according to his lawyer, Mr Gabriel Villareal.

Mr Cojuangco, who has been stripped of his controlling interest in the San Miguel Corporation, the biggest in the Philippines, is accused of having amassed a huge personal fortune through questionable business dealings with the consent, knowledge or backing of Mr Marcos.

Together with more than 90 people who accompanied Mr Marcos to Hawaii, Mr Cojuangco has had his passport revoked by the new Government, restricting his movement to within the U.S. He is now in California.

If his passport is returned and he is allowed home, Mr Cojuangco might assist the Government with its "hidden wealth" inquiry, Mr Villareal said. So far Mr Jose Yac Campos, an industrialist, has been the only former high-ranking business associate of Mr Marcos to co-operate with the commission.

He confessed to being a front-man for the deposed leader. In return for immunity from prosecution, he turned over to the commission land holdings and 37 "easily-disposable" companies, valued at \$146 million.

The commission chairman, Mr Ramon Diaz, said that seven prominent associates of Mr Marcos had contacted the commission to offer information.

He refused to name the businessmen, saying that premature identification could leave them open to possible reprisal by Mr Marcos, whom Mrs Aquino accused on Monday of fomenting anti-government street rallies in Manila.

S Korea: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Soh Joon-Shik, a Korean born in Japan, was a student aged 23 at Seoul National University when he was arrested in April 1971 and charged with spying for North Korea.

He had taken part in demonstrations against the decision to amend the constitution to allow the President, then Park Chung-Hee, to stand for a third term, and the conduct of the subsequent elections.

He has been held ever since, first on a seven-year sentence, and after 1978 in Cheongju Preventive Custody Centre on a series of two-year detention orders allowed where the authorities believe there is a "strong possibility" that the prisoner may commit the same crime again.

Mr Soh, who was 38 last month, has just learnt that another two-year custody order has been imposed.

His case is not unusual. As a new report from Amnesty International, *South Korea: Violations of Human Rights*, makes clear, thousands of people have been arrested and imprisoned since the early 1970s for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

Although many have been released under presidential amnesties, some remain in detention after 15 years. At least 10 political prisoners are known to have been executed since 1975. A number of those arrested are Koreans normally resident in Japan, who are prosecuted for espionage in trials that make much of the threat of invasion and the subversive activities of North Korea: 100 people are serving sentences.

Some have been tortured into "confessing" to such charges as spying.

During Mr Soh's trial in 1971 the main evidence by the prosecution was his own confession of guilt. Later he disclosed that it had been extracted under torture.

Prisoners of conscience in South Korea include teachers,



Mr Soh Joon-Shik: made his confession under torture

Japan's new war text makes Peking fume

Peking (Reuters) — China is demanding changes in a history textbook proposed for use in Japanese schools, claiming that it distorts facts and glosses over atrocities during the Sino-Japanese War.

It fails to describe Japan's military activities during the 1937-45 war as aggression, and says that the facts of the 1937 Nanking massacre, in which Japanese soldiers killed thousands of Chinese civilians, were still under debate.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has sent a "stern note" about the book to the Japanese Embassy, according to the New China News Agency.

The book, prepared by a conservative group called the National Conference to Defend Japan, was approved last month by a Japanese Education Ministry panel, paving the way for its use next year.

Japan has explained that the book has yet to get final approval, and China hopes the issue will be seriously handled

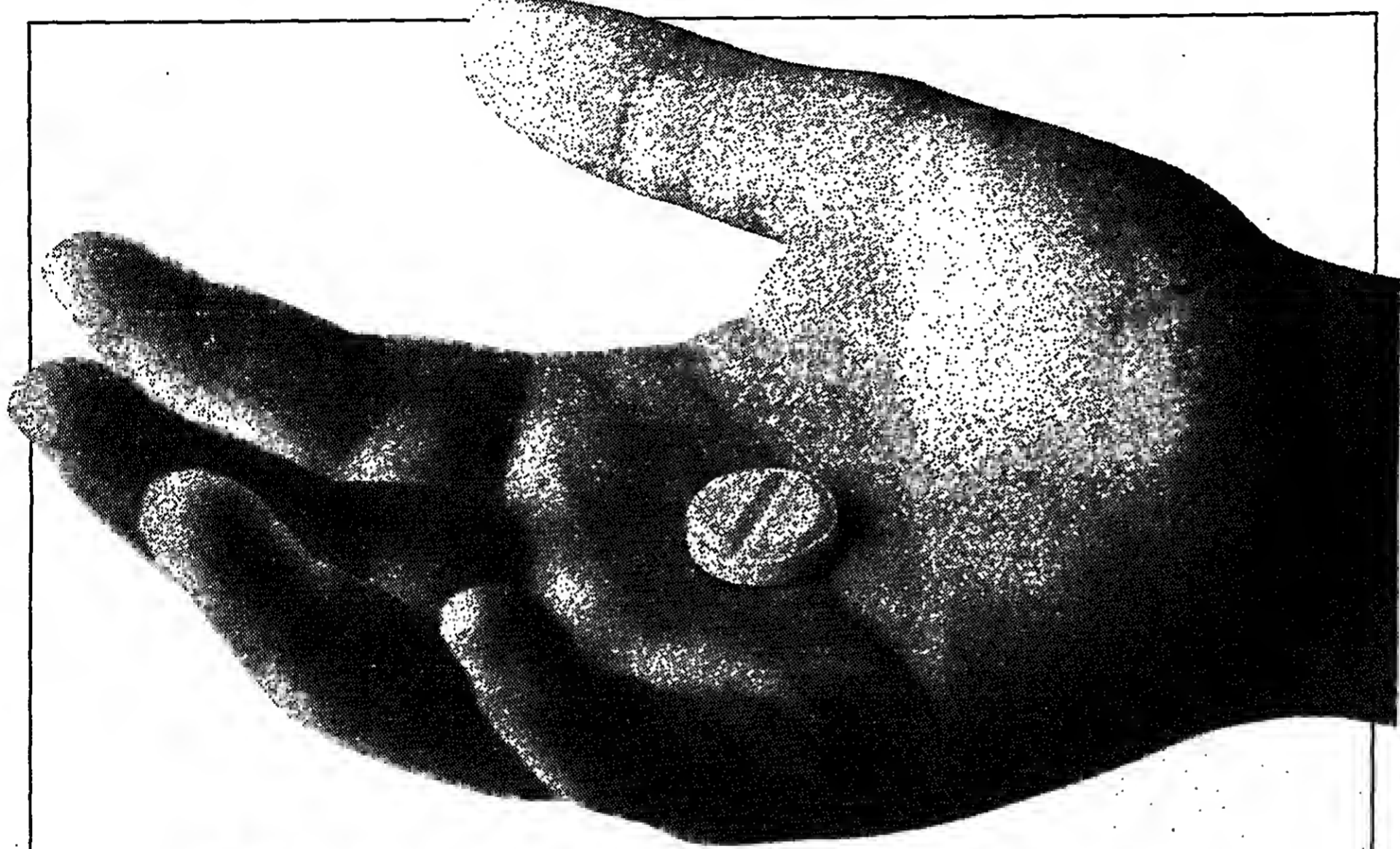
and swift and effective measures taken to rectify its erroneous accounts," the news agency said.

China's note said that in 1982, after diplomatic moves against textbook revisions, a senior official promised that Japan would "examine its war against China" in any future changes. "The Japanese Education Ministry failed to honour this commitment by approving the textbook," it said.

China, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian countries denounced Japanese attempts to change school textbooks in 1982 as efforts to rewrite history.

That revision used words such as "advance" rather than "invasion" to describe the progress of Japanese troops during the war. The dispute subsided when Japan agreed to amend the passages.

The Japanese Education Ministry has declined to comment on the new version.



VITAL NEW INFORMATION ABOUT ASPIRIN FOR CHILDREN.

As of today, we advise you not to give junior aspirin or any medicine containing aspirin to any child under 12 years of age, except under medical supervision. Product contents are printed on all packs of home medicines.

This advice is given in consultation with the DHSS, because of concern about a rare but serious illness called Reye's Syndrome.

WHAT IS REYE'S SYNDROME?

It is an extremely rare disease which affects very few children, less than 1 in 100,000.

The major symptoms of the illness are prolonged vomiting and unusual behaviour, especially after a feverish illness. If your child ever displays these serious symptoms, don't hesitate — call your doctor, as this kind of condition will require medical treatment, even though it is most unlikely to be Reye's.

Unfortunately research has found no definite cause of Reye's Syndrome. But it seems that it only occurs when there is a chance combination of several factors, and some studies suggest a possible link with aspirin.

Even though Reye's occurs where no aspirin has been taken, we are still advising you not to give aspirin to your children without medical advice.

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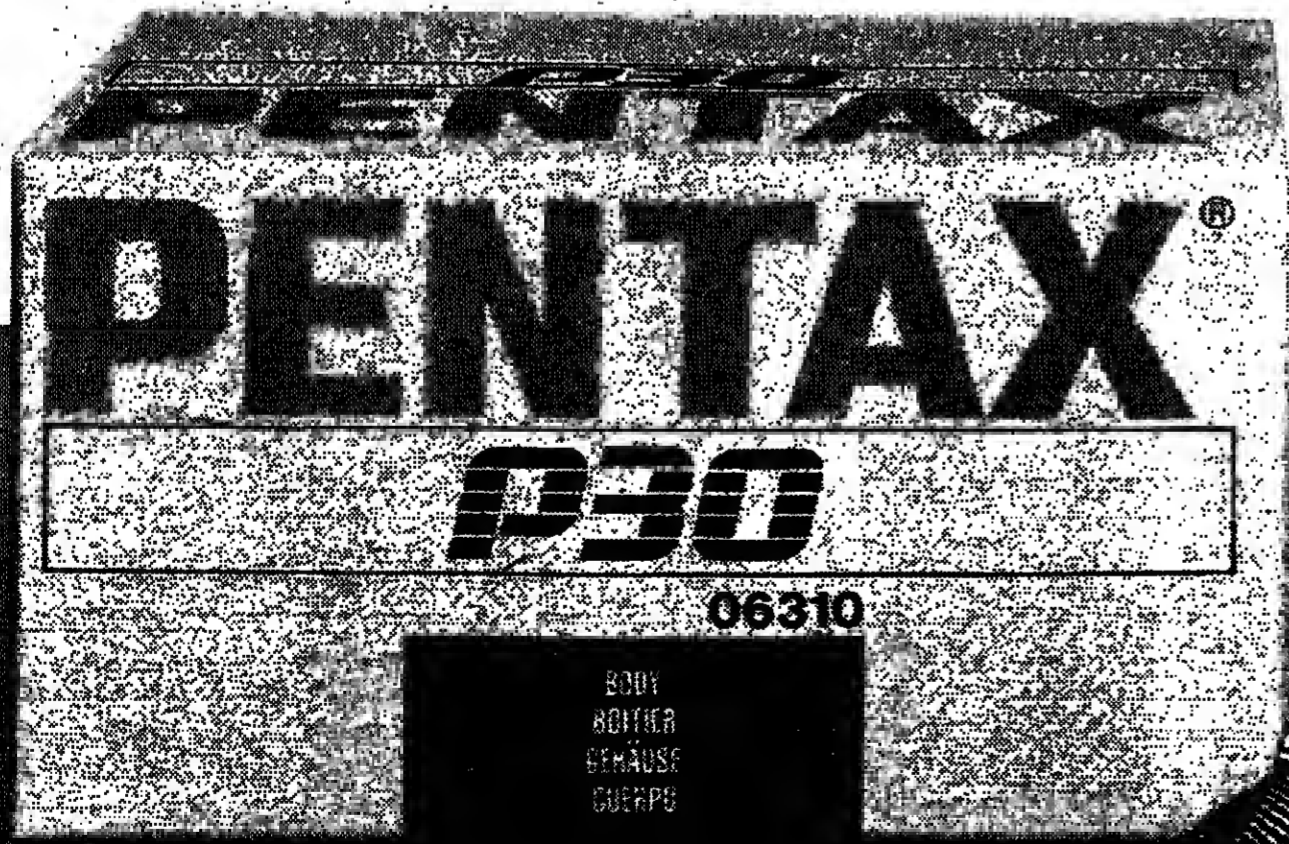
So you can continue to use aspirin with confidence — it's a valuable everyday home remedy.

Until we know more about Reye's Syndrome, all we ask is that you don't give aspirin to children under 12, without medical advice.

Issued by the Aspirin Foundation in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Security.

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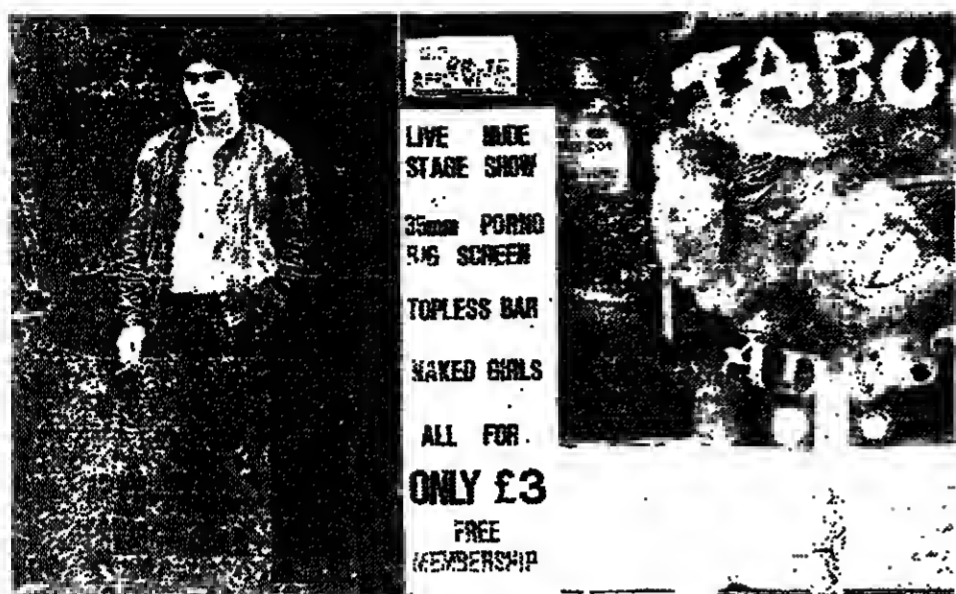


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SPECTRUM

Taking sex out of Soho

Next week sees the latest in a long line of attempts to clean up London's red-light district. Marcel Berlins took to the streets to gauge the likely impact of licensing restrictions



Taboo's the word: can a cleaned-up Soho avoid falling victim to Covent Garden syndrome?

To John Galsworthy, Soho was "untidy, full of Greeks, Ishmaelites, cats, Italians, tomatoes, restaurants, organs, coloured stuffs, queer names, and people looking out of upper windows".

A generation or two later, it was London's own Bohemia, with prostitutes in the streets, Absolute Beginners, drinking clubs, struggling artists, and a community of ebulliently louche characters whose exploits are recalled in literary journals and in the precincts, now tainted by fame, of the Coach and Horses in Greek Street. That Soho died too, to be replaced in the mid-Sixties by the sleaziness of the sex shop, the X-film and the taintness of the T-shirt generation, instant food and instant drugs.

Westminster Council intends to give licences to only 10 premises. Peter Hartley, chairman of the council's environment committee, says: "We will award licences to responsible businessmen who do not have a criminal record, who will keep proper accounts and who will generally run the place efficiently and honestly."

Now, Soho is on the verge of its fourth reincarnation of the century. Next Tuesday the Westminster City Council assumes new powers to shut down all but a few of the establishments given over to sexual gawping and fantasizing.

well lit. I wouldn't walk in Covent Garden alone at night, but I'm not scared in Soho", says an elderly habitue.

Most complaints to the police from non-residents are about being cheated. There are inevitably some robberies and muggings, but the shadier elements are usually content to earn their keep through deception rather than violence.

needs of the permanent community. That may be a forlorn hope. There are already signs that increasing rents are driving away existing traders, even before the further rises that redevelopment of the former sex premises are expected to bring.

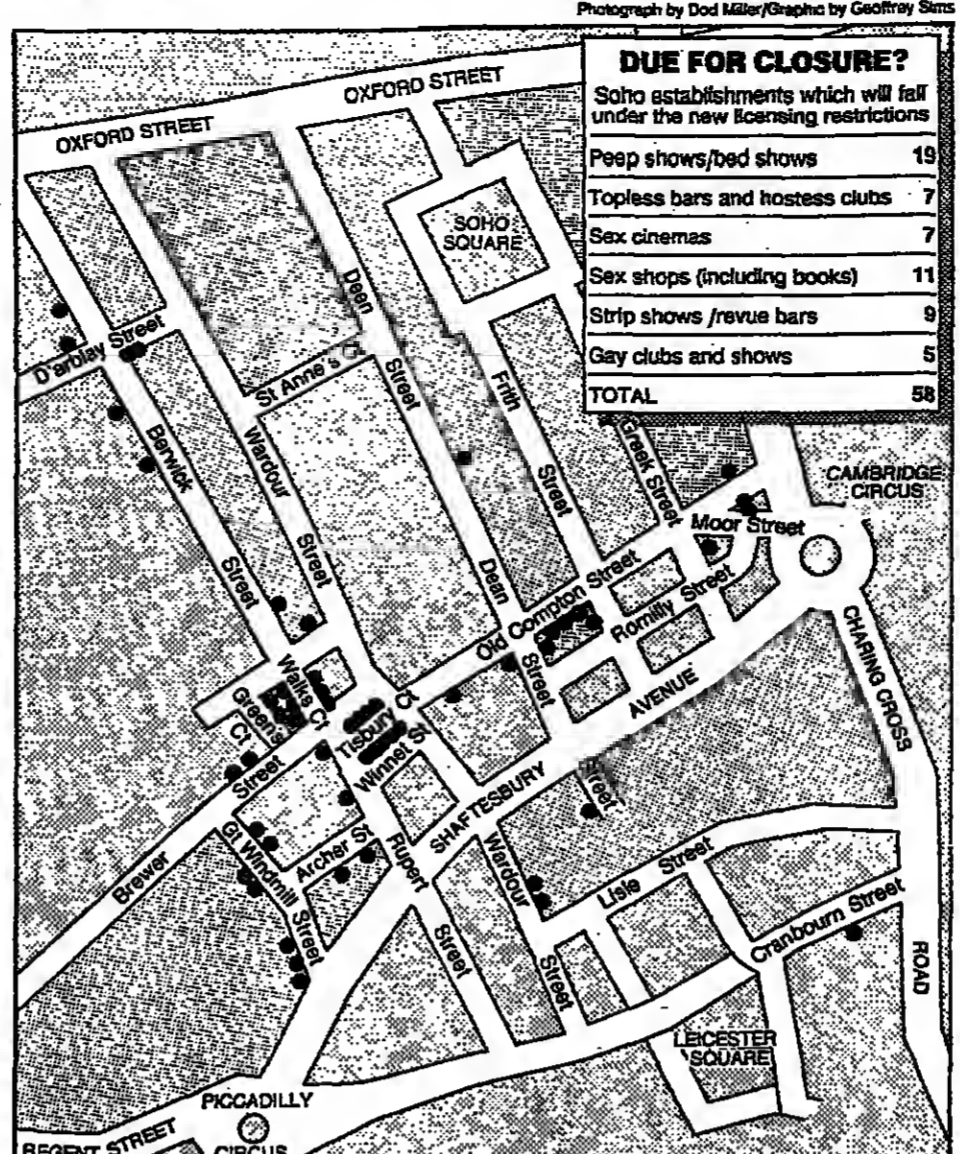
Next door, Powell & Co, Gents' Outfitters, demonstrates the possible future face of Soho. It sells relatively pricey stylish clothes, specializing in period styles like mid-century American. "We don't depend on passing trade, we're known through word of mouth, so we're very happy here. But I don't know how the small traders can make a living", Mark Powell says.

Soho, for all its still strong community identity and the enthusiastic hind activities of the Soho Society, has not escaped the effects of second-generation dispersal. The children of the Greeks, Chinese and Jews who lived and worked there have largely chosen to live elsewhere, even if their businesses are still in the area.

Up to now, speculating residential developers have been kept at bay by controlled rents and a strong housing association; but the association says that prices, even for property in poor condition, will soon rise beyond its reach.

'People just don't like coming into this street'

when prostitutes roamed freely are now recalled with nostalgia. But what new Soho will emerge? Will it, like Covent Garden, become a twee and soulless place, artificial and hardly habitable, existing only to service the demands of tourists and jazzers?



DUE FOR CLOSURE?
Soho establishments which will fall under the new licensing restrictions

Peep shows/bed shows	19
Topless bars and hostess clubs	7
Sex cinemas	7
Sex shops (including books)	11
Strip shows/revue bars	9
Gay clubs and shows	5
TOTAL	58

Deadly virus, deadly rivals

The search for an Aids cure may be hampered by competition over patent rights between the top research groups

A bitter row is preventing cooperation between the two front-runners in the bid to discover a vaccine to combat Aids. And the quarrel looks petty to the layman.

The science journal Nature warns: "The most serious danger now is that an important field of investigation, already too much soured by contending passions, will be further embittered by personal considerations".

The dispute concerns two powerful research teams and renowned laboratories in biomedical science. One is led by Dr Robert Gallo at the National Cancer Institute of the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The other, at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, is led by Dr Luc Montagnier.



Doctors in dispute: Dr Gallo, top, and Dr Montagnier

series, the name Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus, HTLV-III, was adopted in November 1983.

Luc Montagnier saw evidence of a link with another category of viral disease. Hence, the French team had chosen the name Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus, or LAV, in May, 1983.

Eminent scientists, after more than a year of work, negotiated a new name for the virus, which avoided the dispute over priority of discovery. The form adopted last month was HIV, standing for Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

The Pasteur institute has already filed a legal suit following a patent awarded for a test developed by Gallo's group to detect antibody molecules in the blood revealing the presence of Aids virus.

Pearce Wright

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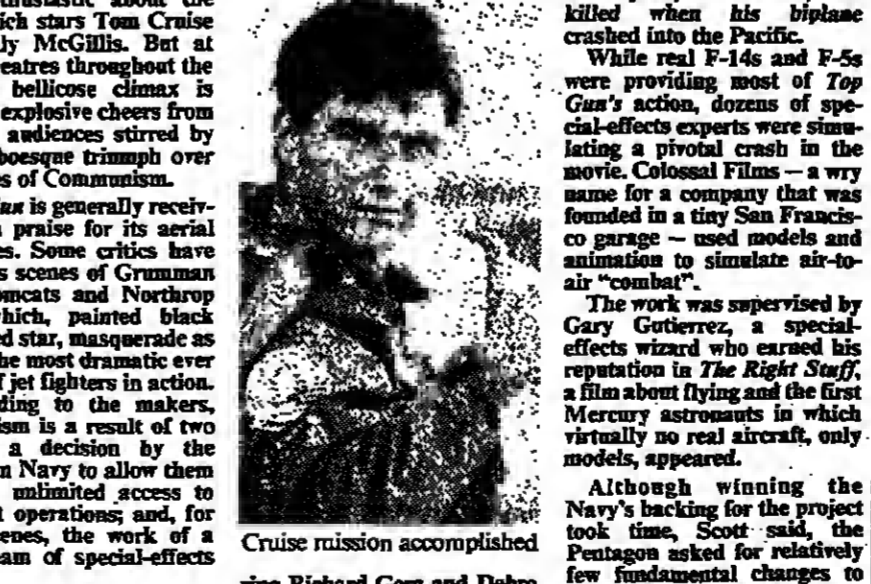
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Pentagon law

America's latest Ramboesque film stars government hardware in an aerial spectacle



Near the end of Top Gun, one of the United States' top-grossing films, there is a spectacular aerial dogfight in which US Navy pilots shoot down four Soviet MIG fighters over the Indian Ocean - in peacetime.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 973

ACROSS

- Priest's handwash (6)
- Original West Indians (6)
- Car (4)
- Vacations (8)
- Tsar's daughter (8)
- Ulster police (1,1,1)
- Pirate's coins (6,2,5)
- Sea inlet (3)
- Cartoon (8)
- Top beef dish (8)
- Without charge (4)
- Longest British river (6)
- Spotted (6)

DOWN

- Mass (4)
- Caracas republic (9)
- Yellow-orange (5)
- French colonist (5)
- Impolite (4)
- Sluggish Louisiana river (5)
- Swampy grasses (5)
- Also violin (5)
- Change (5)
- Civil weddings-official (9)
- Quote in evidence (4)
- Legion standard initials (1,1,1)
- Habituate (5)
- Take instruction (5)
- Light deviator (5)
- Shoot (4)
- Rip (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 972

ACROSS: 1 Jump up 5 Darn 8 Uter 9 Trimmed 11 Bull's eye 13 Stag 15 Reserve eleven 17 Aura 18 Assessor 21 Diablo 22 Blast 23 Star 24 Surety

DOWN: 2 Until 3 Par 4 Petty sessions 5 Dais 6 Romanov 7 Cumberland 10 Degenerate 12 Sort 14 Blue 16 Servant 19 Sheet 20 Moor 22 Bar

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

The nine-year babies

Tim Bishop



Happy family: Kevin and Pauline Davis, with adopted children Adam (left) and Daniel — "to them we are Mum and Dad, and that's the bottom line"

"This is Josie", reads the careful lettering in Adam Davis's life-story book. "Adam came from Josie's tummy. She loved Adam very much."

The picture of the young woman in wedding dress is not, however, that of Adam's present mother, Pauline. Her photograph is at the beginning of the book in a family group with husband, Kevin, and baby Adam above the caption: "This is Adam with Mum and Daddy."

The reason for this circumlocutory baby talk is that three-year-old Adam is adopted, and these days adoption agencies prefer the children they place to grow up knowing that they are adopted. It is also an indication of an increasing stringency on the part of the agencies, aimed at ensuring that the children they place get the best possible deal.

Certainly, when it comes to adopting babies, the agencies are in a position of strength since changing attitudes and wider use of contraception and abortion have meant that there are now fewer than 1,000 healthy white babies adopted by strangers in Britain each year.

In fact, the chances of adopting such a baby are so slim that most potential adopters do not even bother to apply, according to the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) which represents the 130 local authorities and 40 voluntary societies dealing with adoptions in England, Scotland and Wales.

There is, however, a constant need for adopters of older or handicapped children, or those in groups of brothers and sisters, or from ethnic minority groups. But for childless couples desperate for a baby the process is a lengthy and often heart-rending experience. "You can sit in an agency waiting list for six or seven years and still be disappointed," says Tony Hall, spokesman for BAAF.

Pauline and Kevin Davis waited eight years before adopting Adam and by the end Pauline was close to a nervous breakdown. A primary school teacher who suffers from a rare hereditary disease which led to the removal of her ovaries at the age of 18, Pauline always knew that she

While arguments rage over test-tube babies and the rising rate of abortions, some couples unable to have children have to wait a decade before they can adopt. The process can cause considerable distress, as Sally Brompton found

"I would adopt. To my family it's the natural way to have children", she says.

When she and Kevin married 10 years ago they immediately wrote to Lewisham Social Services near their home in south-east London saying they would like to be considered for a white baby or toddler up to the age of five. The council told them to reapply when they had been married two years. When they did so they were told that the adoption books were closed. "We were shattered", says Pauline. "There we were with a lovely home, both earning good money. We thought it would be easy."

She then wrote 35 letters to local authorities and independent adoption agencies all over London. Only a dozen bothered to reply initially and they offered no hope. "That made me feel even worse", recalls Pauline. "We just didn't know what to do next. Crazy thoughts kept going through my mind, like going to Brazil, picking up a couple of babies and bringing them back."

Already suffering from the psychological effects of not being able to have a baby herself, she started taking tranquilizers and anti-depressants. But at last letters came from three different agencies saying that they were ready to begin adoption proceedings. "We just plumped for the nearest, which was the Independent Adoption Service", says Pauline.

The agency arranged for her and Kevin to attend a four-afternoon adoption workshop designed to "prepare and educate" applicants while awaiting the agency to assess them. Supervised by two social workers, they and three other couples discussed their feelings about adoption, made up life-story books for an imaginary child and role played, enacting scenes between natural parents, grandparents and adoptive parents, aimed at helping the couples

to understand everyone's else's point of view.

Two months later Pauline and Kevin were visited by a social worker. "She wanted to know how much money we earned and how we would survive on just one wage", says Pauline. "She went all over the house, checking out what facilities there were for a baby, making sure we would be able to provide. Then she came back a second time to talk about how our families would accept an adopted child. On her third visit she just talked about the things we'd gone over before and what we thought about the workshop."

"We had a lovely home. We thought it would be easy"

Four months later the couple heard that they had been approved. "By then we felt as though we had been thoroughly gone over", says Pauline. "We'd even had to sign consent forms for them to check up on us with our doctor and the police." That worried Pauline. She was still taking tranquilizers and the social worker had told her that she did not believe anyone should be on a "medicinal crutch". "She said she wouldn't put us up to the adoption panel until I was off the tablets. So I lied to her. I told her that I'd stopped taking them although I still had about three years' supply in my medicine cupboard."

It was another seven months before the social worker rang Kevin to ask if he and Pauline would be interested in an eight-month-old baby boy. Pauline had gone into hospital to have her tonsils removed. "I can remember sitting on the bed crying and the nurse asking me what was wrong. I said: 'We're having a

baby". She thought I was mad."

By the time she and Kevin met Adam at his foster home six weeks later they had seen his photograph and knew his background. "We were really nervous", says Pauline. "I don't remember, saying to Kevin on the way home 'I don't love him'. I expected to meet this baby and automatically love him. And Kevin said: 'Don't be daft. That comes later.'"

Over the next few weeks they visited Adam half-a-dozen times. He was 10 months old when they finally took him home. "For the first three days I had a continual knot in my stomach", says Pauline. "I kept thinking 'What have we done?' I was really frightened." Their problems, however, were far from over.

Adam's natural mother wanted him fostered on a long-term basis rather than adopted and it was another 19 months before the couple got a High Court order making Adam legally theirs. "What people don't realize is that you're going through hell before the judge finally bangs his hammer", says Pauline. "The strange thing was that afterwards I was as low as you can get. I started to suffer from agoraphobia and I was frightened even to go into the garden. All the strain had taken its toll on me and I became really depressed. My doctor told me that I ought to see a psychiatrist but warned me that it would probably ruin our chances of adopting a second child. But by that time I was so desperate I just wanted to get myself better."

The psychiatrist put her back on anti-depressants, prescribed a low dose tranquilizer and suggested counselling for Pauline. Three months later she and Kevin went for a one-day workshop to become second-time adopters. "Because we had been able to prove our success with Adam, the agency agreed to let us have a second child", says Pauline. She and Kevin brought

Daniel home when he was just seven weeks old. Today, with their years of tribulation behind them, Pauline and Kevin feel as if they have been parents all their lives. Daniel is nearly one year old and Adam regards him as his brother. "To them we are Mum and Dad, and that's the bottom line", says Kevin. "They are happy and we are happy and we couldn't wish for any better."

British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering publish general information leaflets and a 44-page guide called Adopting a Child which incorporates a list of all Britain's adoption agencies. For a copy send £1.50 to BAAF, 11 Southwark Street, London (01-407 8800).

The following self-help groups offer information, advice and support to prospective adopters: Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services, Lower Boddington, Daventry, Northamptonshire (0327-60295); National Association for the Children, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham (021-359-6887).

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Sooner or later, every parent of a teenager has to face the problem of how to react when a "steady" of the opposite sex is brought home to stay the night.

For several years I had wondered how I would cope when and if such a situation arose. Would I be liberal or censorious? Would I deliberately accommodate them in separate rooms, or would I automatically assume they were sleeping together?

Like so many parents of today, I had no personal precedent to guide me. When I was a teenager in the 1960s and living with my parents, there would have been no question whatever of a boyfriend staying the night in the same room as me.

But this generation are different. They seem to take it absolutely for granted that it will be perfectly all right to bring a boyfriend or girlfriend back for the night — no questions asked, no parental approval sought.

That, at least, has been my experience. For some months my 17-year-old son had been going out with the same girl. One never knows, of course, and hardly likes to ask how "serious" these relationships are, but I got the impression that this friendship was long-cr-lasting than most. The girl was also 17 and, like my son, studying for A levels.

One night, long after I had gone to bed, I woke up to hear footsteps on the stairs. Sleepily I looked at the clock: 3am. I vaguely sensed that there seemed to be more than one pair of footsteps, but soon went back to sleep and thought no more about it. "At least he's back", I thought.

The next morning, a Sunday, my son made an appearance at his usual time of 11am. "Oh, by the way," he said casually, "I hope you don't mind. Emma missed her train and I brought her back here to stay the night."

"Where did she sleep, then?" I asked naively. The door of the spare bedroom was wide open and no one was there.

"In my room," said my son coolly. "She's still there. I'm just going to make her a cup of coffee and some toast."

The penny then dropped. This was, so far as I knew, a "first" for my son; he had brought his girlfriend back for the night. Was there a shred of embarrassment, the slightest trace of discomfort? There was not. Did he look guilty, ill at ease, ready to be on the defensive? He did not. There could not have been less awkwardness on his part.

From his point of view it was the most natural and the most expected thing in the

Sleeping partners in your house?

FIRST PERSON

world that his girlfriend should sleep with him in his own bedroom.

So completely relaxed was my son that it did not occur to me to feel peculiar about it either. When Emma finally appeared for lunch, having bathed, washed her hair and put on her make-up, we greeted her as an old friend.

Since that time, Emma has been to stay the night on several occasions. She always sleeps in the same room as my son. I have not said anything, nor has my husband. Indeed, what could we possibly say? My younger son, aged 15, is also quite embarrassed about it all. His view is that "of course" his brother and Emma would sleep in the same room. Where else?

There is also a reciprocal arrangement and my son has stayed the night at Emma's home a few times, although I have not asked what the sleeping arrangements are. I doubt if they are any different.

Perhaps this business of staying the night which, for my generation, would have been a momentous event leading to unpleasant confrontations, is simply a natural extension of the kind of lives younger people lead today?

Ever since they were both quite small, my sons have

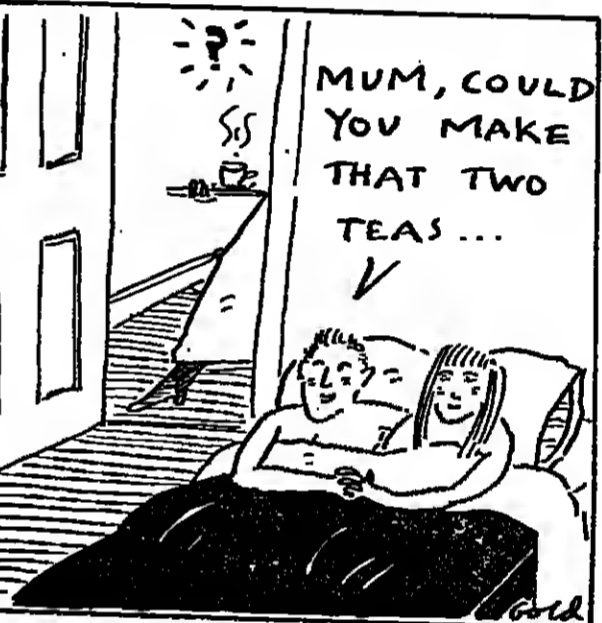
been in the habit of staying overnight with friends and having people to stay with them. As they grew older, it was not unusual to find four or five complete strangers staying for breakfast. At the local teenage parties, the parents simply seem to pot down rows of sleeping bags into which the guests drop when exhausted. There appears to be no sexual segregation in these makeshift dormitories.

There is a tradition, at least in the circles where my teenage children move, that they will stay overnight at "friends' houses rather than risk walking the streets after midnight, and rather than calling parents to fetch them in the morning.

I don't feel that, as a parent, I am particularly liberal or super-tolerant: it was just that there seemed little point in making a great fuss about a *fait accompli*. Anyway, what was there really for me to object to? No discernible harm has been done and, besides, my son is virtually an adult.

I wonder, though: would I have felt the same if my son had been a daughter? Would I then have felt the need to discuss contraception, the moral issues and so on? I certainly would not presume to talk about these matters with either of my sons who, I am sure, know far more about the subject than I do and who would squirm at the idea of cosy chats about sex.

Looking back, I believe that my son would have been genuinely surprised and taken aback if I had raised an objection about his girlfriend staying the night. But I simply wouldn't have known how to go about objecting or what opinions or sanctions I could have offered. How do other parents feel about this delicate issue?



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A lesson in changing shape

When pupils of Central Cabarrus High School, North Carolina, welcomed back their visiting maths teacher from England this spring they got a shock: her name, her golden hair and her ready smile were all the same. But the overall shape had practically halved. Dinah Player, from Charters School, Sunningdale, Ascot, was a shadow of her former self.

Since Dinah's first three-week educational visit in 1984, two things had happened: in the first year she continued to put on weight until she reached 16½ stones. In the second year she took herself firmly in hand, joined a slimming club and in 11 months shed 7st 3lb. Last May, Dinah took a party of Charter pupils to the school's outdoor pursuits centre in Wales. "In January 1985 I had not started my diet. I remember thinking 'How on earth am I going to manage all these activities?' There was pot-boiling, caving, climbing. I was really far, top large for any of that. But by May, she had already

How Dinah Player shed seven stones in a year and slid down the Squeeze.

lost 4½ stone and she slid through the "Squeeze" potato hole with the best of them. "The girls were actually taking bets as to whether I'd get through. When I did there was a murmur of surprise." Dinah's achievements have not gone unnoted. Earlier this year she was voted Weight Watchers Member of the Year and the United Kingdom's highest achiever: "not only for the amount she has lost in 11 months but in the improvement to her lifestyle." Since she reached her 9st 6lb goal weight, Dinah has taken up windsurfing, competitive squash, swimming, sailing, and is planning a new hobby — Formula One car racing. So how did a nice girl like this find herself in such a gross body? "Easy", she says. "It just went on very, very gradu-



Figuring it out: super-slim maths teacher Dinah Player

teaching job here at Ascot I bought a car and settled down to a life of school dinners. The weight piled on. "As my thirtieth birthday approached I thought: this has got to stop. I can't help being 30 but I can help being fat. But it was when a colleague became worried about being 11 stone that I really got a jolt. I'd always thought she was a beanpole. If she was going to do something about it, then so was I.

"We didn't go to our local club here in Ascot for fear of being recognized by any parents. That first evening was so funny. We laughed hysterically in the car park before going in — all nerves. With help from her parents in the shape of low-fat milk and high-fibre cereals, the slimming club did the trick, although, as Dinah says, "It's a terribly difficult thing to say that you don't like how you are, that you are going to sort yourself-out." Watch out for her on the race course.

Vivien Tomlinson ©Times Newspapers Ltd, 1986



Suddenly this summer?

Remember summer? It's that hot bit of the year that makes running a business such a joy. The staff wilt. Productivity falls off. Temperatures fray. It sneaks up every year and takes you by surprise. So this year, why not prepare for it? With Toshiba air conditioning. Toshiba can provide wall or ceiling mounted units or a discreet cassette system according to your individual needs. They are easy to install, quiet to run and fully guaranteed for three years. And Toshiba's remarkable heat pump technology can actually cut your fuel bills in winter — a timely consideration in Monenergy year. It makes good economic sense to keep the staff cool and efficient. Dial 100 and ask for freefone Toshiba. (Or write direct to Toshiba (UK) Ltd, Toshiba House, Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey) Because if you won't, they will. It pays to keep cool with Toshiba.

THE TIMES DIARY

Pretoria rebuff

The report of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, to be published tomorrow afternoon, warns that without concerted action by the Commonwealth countries there will be "the worst bloodbath since the Second World War".

Inquest check

The coroner whose long-awaited inquest into the death in custody of a Hell's Angel held back a London Weekend Television documentary on the subject last year has not heard the last of the case.

Big sleep

Is there no end to the violence on the streets of America? Police in South Burlington, Vermont, are searching for a gunman who kidnapped a life-sized statue of a man from outside a restaurant, shot it in the head and dumped it naked in nearby woods.

Convictions

David Gilroy Bevan, MP, has paid a price for his public opposition to the government's BL sell-off plans. The Tory back-bencher is the proud owner of a giant Range Rover V8, paraded at "Keep Land Rover British" rallies at the height of the controversy.

Peace person

These days, Blue Peter presents more than demonstrate various uses for washing-up liquid bottles. On Sunday, hubby Janet Ellis made a pretty fair show of her liberal sympathies, when she turned up at a CND-sponsored "peace fair" in Richmond, Surrey.

King of King's

Is King's College, London, falling under the influence of Rome? King's has appointed a Jesuit, Father John Mahoney, to the chair of moral and social theology. The appointment will surprise those used to the college's Anglican tradition, which dates from its foundation in the last century as a counter to the godless influence of the Benthamites at University College.

Moralists

"Asking Pat Willit to have nothing to do with the Millant Tendency is like asking Terry Wogan not to appear on television," said SDP chief whip John Cartwright, as reported in yesterday's Times. Not originally, he didn't. "Like asking Joan Collins to have nothing to do with sex," was Cartwright's own choice of metaphor - but his staff toned it down in the interests of protecting public morals.

PHS

The current debate on tax cuts displays the familiar British mixture of good intentions, hypocrisy and superficial analysis. It is based on a failure to understand the relationship between the productive and dependent parts of the economy.

In Britain a population of about 17 million currently in work in the private sector must pay for some 5 million people working in local and central government. About 1.7 million work in public corporations. Together, those 24 million workers must then support themselves and a dependent population of about 32 million.

Of course, the total tax burden is not the whole of Britain's problem. Any more than is the control of overheads in business. But it is a large part. The World Bank study of the connection between economic growth and public spending in 20 different countries.

John Hoskyns argues that Britain looks at spending policy from the wrong end

The tax world turned upside down

The performance of the low-spending Pacific basin economies, the employment effects of President Reagan's tax cuts, the growth of Britain's black economy - all these merely tell us what we should have been able to work out for ourselves. British governments decide what they are going to spend first, then how to raise the tax revenue.

themselves fancy, they warn that cutting taxes will simply encourage people (i.e. "ordinary" people) to buy more foreign goods.

If these views were right, then our economic problems could be easily solved by massive tax increases. After all, if present tax rates need not be reduced, are we saying that, by some happy accident, their present level is optimal? Or could they be increased further? If so, is there any limit? We could up-end the argument that lower spending and taxes lead to greater competitiveness and growth, more jobs and the scope for higher spending. Instead, we could agree that higher spending produces more jobs, faster growth and greater competitiveness.

The Chancellor's critics, who press for higher spending on our present unworkable welfare system, seem to have learned nothing since 1945 when the process that got us into our present predicament began. By starting from the other end, and resurrecting Sir Geoffrey Howe's original aim of a 25-per cent basic rate, the Chancellor raises the fundamental question: how big a tax burden can the productive economy bear, if it is to perform in a competitive world? Getting the right answer to that question is the first step towards the destination everyone, including the big spenders themselves, wants to reach.

Robert Fisk on the anarchy beyond anarchy that has broken out in West Beirut since the departure of the Palestinians

A black hole in Lebanon

Beirut How often the Lebanese Muslims of West Beirut wish the Palestinians were there now. The sentiment is not a happy one, and the civilian population of this mutilated city says it only with reluctance, like someone who does, after all, regret the passing of a black sheep in the family. Certainly, the emotion does not accord with Israel's contention - that the Palestinians operated a brutal state-within-a-state from which the Lebanese were freed by the Israeli army - but it is none the less a reality.

Before 1982, the Palestinians, reviled and resented by the Lebanese themselves, did at least maintain some semblance of law, however corrupt some frameworks of redress, however flawed, according to which most people lived their lives. Now they have nothing. To call West Beirut a place of anarchy is both a cliché and an understatement. It has become an ideological battleground in which the Lebanese themselves are now being transformed, their economy in catastrophic decline, their Christian neighbours driven out, their Western-orientated culture torn to pieces. In a curious way, it has ceased to be part of the Lebanese capital.

Almost every Western embassy, save for the Greek and German, has abandoned the west of the city. Word has it that the Goethe Institute is about to close. Even the American University, that most venerable of Middle East institutions founded by Protestant missionaries in the last century, is in danger of shutting its doors after the kidnapping and murder of its senior staff. The American University hospital has itself now been afflicted with abductions, particularly of Christian doctors. The three major Western news agencies in the city have all talked of leaving for Cyprus.

It is difficult to exaggerate the anti-Western campaign. The suspicion and contempt that you find in West Beirut - not among friends and ordinary Lebanese civilians, although there is sometimes a ghost of it there too - is an obsession for some of the political groups, particularly the more extreme Muslim factions, Sunni as well as Shia. It is an almost tangible distrust of foreigners whose institutions and nations have, in their eyes, interfered with and shamelessly used the cycle of tragedy for their own ends.

There are forces at work here which even associate the nationalist or "neutral" Christian communities - the Greek Orthodox and the Armenians - with the West. The results have been both predictable and terrifying. Thousands of Christians have left West Beirut after the kidnappings and murders of the past 12 months, while dozens of Armenians have fled their homes after the savage murder of four of their community. For some reason, the killers simply approached their victims at work - a dentist, the owner of a photography shop, for example - and shot them carefully in the right eye.

Kidnap victims over the past two years have included American, British, French, Irish, Italian, Cypriot, even South Korean nationals, not to mention hundreds of Lebanese. The oldest man abducted was an 84-year-old Frenchman. "Don't you realize what they are thinking now?" a friend remarked at the weekend. "They think that every Westerner was a spy and that anyone who stays is a bigger spy. You cannot return with them."

But just who "they" are remains as fearful a mystery as "their" activities. On the surface, it is not difficult to identify one of the nations which influences events here. In many parts of West Beirut - not just the Shia suburbs



Muslim militiaman on the Green Line battlefield dividing the city: the influence is increasingly Iranian

of Bourj al-Barajneh, Basta, Hay el-Sellum and Chiyah but in Ouzai and even near Verdun - it is the Iranian rather than the Lebanese flag which hangs from lampposts and buildings. Sometimes they snarl in the breeze alongside green and red banners bearing Koranic quotations, at other times they are draped in unhappy alliance with the rather older flags of the Lebanese nationalist Amal militia.

A new generation of giant wall-paintings has appeared on the walls. Ayatollah Khomeini and Imam Moussa Sadr, the Lebanese Shia leader who "disappeared" in Libya in 1978, gaze down possessively in vivid blacks and greens. Broadsheets demanding the liberation of southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation army contain not political encouragement but ideological insistence that the struggle must be taken "to the gates of al Quds (Jerusalem)".

It is difficult to exaggerate the anti-Westernism

spiritual power produce physical victory. Not only was the Shah overthrown, but Iran's army of potential martyrs is now fighting on Iraqi soil. And it is for this reason that the Shias of Beirut are now turning away from the nationalist leadership of their own Amal movement, increasingly giving their loyalties to the pro-Iranian (and Iranian-financed) Hezbollah, listening not to political claims for equality but to spiritual demands of the purest, most unobtainable kind. The hundreds of Hezbollah "party of God" militiamen I watched standing in the streets of Ouzai last week - many of them

holding brand-new anti-tank rocket launchers - had come to listen to Sheikh Muhammad Fadallah telling them of the prophet's message and of their religious duty to oppose all foreign "plots" as they struggled for the return of their holy city, Jerusalem. It was a message as simple as that given by any 12th century Christian crusader.

Yet the artlessness of such appeals contrasts uneasily with a much darker conflict going on within West Beirut, where the intelligence agencies of a number of Middle Eastern countries now operate virtually unchecked, kidnapping Westerners and Lebanese, funding militias, supporting rival political groups in order to maintain their own balance of power. The Syrians are now trying to prop up their erstwhile Amal allies besieging the Palestinian camps in Beirut while at the same time tacitly permitting Yassir Arafat's own Palestinian guerrillas to return to Beirut to counteract the growing power of the Hizbollah.

The latter, so close to Iran in their aspirations, now find themselves politically besieged by the steady breakdown of relations between Iran and Syria. The Libyans, who still maintain a hundred or so regular troops with attendant intelligence officers in the Bekaa Valley, exert a disproportionate influence over events, largely because their plainclothes agents can purchase the temporary loyalty of Muslim gunmen - which is how they came to buy (quite literally) the two British teachers who were murdered in retaliation for the American air raids on Libya.

So promiscuous has the environment become that from just one small area of West Beirut, followers of the Iraqi Dawia party - under the name Islamic Jihad - are now able to shift France's policy towards Iran by the simple process of keeping up to nine French hostages in secret locations in the city. Already, France has been prevailed upon to repay millions of dollars of loans to Iran and to remove up to a thousand Iranian dissidents from a thousand Iranian dissidents from French soil to gain the hostages' release after one of the group

No foreign power dares to send in troops

announced the "execution" of the young researcher, Michel Seurat. It is typical of the chaos in which such deals are made that Seurat appears to have been the victim of an appalling error by his kidnappers. Some of the hostages are believed to have been transported between secret locations, drugged and sleeping inside coffins. Although there is no proof of Seurat's death, the French authorities have been told that he was

accidentally overdosed during one of these trips. The kidnappers subsequently released a picture of "Seurat's" body in a coffin with a cross on its lid - not so much a concession to Seurat's religion as a result of a Christian hearse being the method of hostage transportation.

The basic immunity of foreign correspondents - accepted almost without question throughout the world for more than four decades - has broken down in Lebanon. The foreign correspondents working here are currently outnumbered almost two to one by those of their own colleagues being held hostage in Beirut.

The conspiracy and fear is a little like that in Vienna after the Second World War, although at that time there were no world powers present to maintain control. The United States, the only world power to put its troops into Beirut - in 1982 - withdrew them in ignominious 18 months later. The Soviet Union is now showing its own interest in the Lebanon, appointing one of its top Middle East specialists as new ambassador to Beirut, repeatedly announcing its concern for Lebanon's unity. Few other people talk about it, least of all the Lebanese.

There is, in reality, no foreign power, not even the Syrians, which would now dare to put troops into West Beirut. The major nations of the world are going to let events here take their course - even if this leads to total disintegration.

Des Wilson

Not in front of the patients

Rarely has the arrogance of professionals towards the public been better illustrated than in medical reaction last week to the Data Protection Act provision for individuals to inspect their records. Despite the view of the British Medical Association Council that such access "can improve the quality of the record by correcting factual errors and reducing misunderstandings", the association's consultant committee last week opposed any access whatsoever.

The chairman stated that "psychiatric patients" were particularly at risk, a view hardly consistent with American experience. The American Journal of Psychiatry reports that psychiatric patients "value accurate accounts of their behaviour and are not harmed by reading [them]. In fact, most are quite relieved to find that the records are more innocuous than they had imagined."

That we should be entitled to see our medical records is not just an issue of principle. There are four practical benefits. First, records frequently contain factual errors that could have serious consequences if acted on by the doctor, or could cost patients the benefits of treatment they should receive. (For example, a 20-year-old student would have been committed to a course of anti-convulsive tablets if he had not pressed the doctor on what they were for. He was told it was to control the after-effects of the removal of his brain tumour. He had never had a brain tumour. There had been a clerical error.)

Second, allowing people to check and challenge what has been recorded should prevent prejudice or unsubstantiated comment in their files. Anyone who doubts that this happens need only read the opinion expressed in this newspaper recently by an Aberdeen consultant that files should not be available to patients because they contained "apparently insulting or objectionable" remarks. For example, he described one patient in his files as "a byzantine chap - on his way to becoming a rich fool". The consultant could not see that it is to protect people from such entries (which may remain on their files for life) that access to medical records is proposed.

Another doctor wrote to a medical paper: "All GPs, I imagine, have at times in moments of pique written unfair and maybe even untrue things about troublesome patients on their records. Are patients to have free access to read those things?" The simple answer, of course, is that they should not have to read them because they should not be there.

Third, people have to take many crucial decisions about their own lives and are entitled to all the necessary background information about themselves.

Fourth, the very existence of secret records causes unnecessary

and harmful suspicion. If people believe they have not received the treatment they are entitled to they may attribute it to prejudiced comment they fear exists on the record. A survey in an Australian hospital showed that some patients with chronic diseases had become convinced doctors were concealing the fact that they were suffering from cancer: they were enormously relieved when they saw the records and found that this was not true.

Many consultants and practitioners act as if access to medical records has never been tried. Not only is there overseas experience but in Britain have introduced it and found it helpful. One team of London doctors reported in the British Medical Journal in March that "doctors and patients have either reacted unproblematically or been extremely positive and excited". Significantly, 12 per cent of patients found errors. Many other studies have documented the problems of inaccurate and incomplete medical records.

Of course, professional opponents will say that some patients will be harmed by being confronted with some details at a particular time. Advocates of access to records accept this, and most proposals, including the Access to Personal Files Bill being promoted for the private members' ballot in the autumn, contain a mechanism to enable doctors to withhold information where disclosure would cause serious harm.

Consultants also say that access to the files could worry patients by disclosing speculation about unconfirmed illness, but the proposed built-in delays of obtaining access allow plenty of time for the necessary tests.

The key to this whole debate can be summed up in a simple question: are the majority of people capable of coping with the real facts about themselves and are they better off for having them? The consultant whose study was reported in The Times clearly feels the answer should be no. He notes that 42 out of 100 patients had such comments on their files as "very high blood pressure", "chronic hyper-tension" or "seriously ill". He felt this information would be too alarming for the patients.

But our health is not just a matter for doctors or consultants. It is, first and foremost, our own business and our own responsibility. How can we take proper care of ourselves, understand what our medical practitioners are saying and join with them in confronting illnesses, if we are treated like children and denied basic information. We trust doctors with our own lives and are entitled to all the necessary background information about ourselves.

Des Wilson is chairman of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

moreover . . . Miles Kington

You can't beat flour power

It seems strange that the so-called hippies' convoy should only recently have hit the headlines, even though it has been winding its way round Britain for years. No doubt it was because they provided the media with a ready-made story, about the farmer whose land was invaded and whose crops were squashed, causing him to have a heart attack. Ever since, the bippies have been portrayed as evil monsters rampaging through England, deliberately ruining land and ignoring MOT regulations.

But what of the other side of the picture? I managed to secure an interview with one of the hippies, called Ken, who had just undergone a severe heart attack as well. It was brought on by seeing what the farmers have done to the landscape of Britain.

"We may have caused a little mess here and there," he gasped, "but these farmers have radically changed the face of the countryside. They have removed almost every hedgerow from East Angles, they have ploughed up countless rights of way, they have brutally felled hedges, they have spread chemical poisons over the whole country, they have killed off enormous amounts of wildlife."

"I can understand your distress," I told Ken, more to humour him than anything, "and it may well be true that these farmers have ruined the countryside, but at least they didn't commit the cardinal sins of driving untaxed vehicles and leaving litter."

"When you're driving on private property you're not subject to MOT rules," Ken said, "so these farmers can drive as many untaxed, untested vehicles as they like. As for mess - have you ever looked behind the average farmhouse? At the rusting old saloons and broken-down farm machinery? Don't make me laugh. And next time you meet a farmer, ask him how much of his tax he's omitted to pay last year."

accusations that you have turned the English countryside into a sterile wasteland, hostile to wildlife and the human passer-by alike."

"Well," he said, "we're doing our best, but we haven't got there yet."

"What is the government going to say when it becomes aware of what you're doing to the land?" He looked surprised. "The government is behind us. They make it more profitable to rip up hedges, use chemicals and so on. Chemicals and pesticides are big business, and the government likes big business. If only the hippies' convoy could be made to look like a money-spinner in some way, then the government would give them the sort of big subsidies that we get instead of the paltry £24 a week they actually get. Amazing, isn't it? Poor old hippies are accused of being a burden to the taxpayer, but nobody says the same about farmers, even though we're getting far more. It's hardly fair, is it?"

He grinned to himself. He then told me he had taken up farming because he was tired of just drifting about in life and wanted to get back into the rat race. It was a hard life, but there were satisfactions in assaulting the landscape that he couldn't explain.

"And what about the ebb and flow of the seasons?"

"How do you mean? Oh, the financial year ending in April, and VAT every three months, that sort of thing? Well, we've just got to put up with it, haven't we?" But it may be that the good times for the farmers are now ending, with subsidies being cut and EEC directives being cut to farm practices. Some farmers are said to be suddenly close to bankruptcy, as lower prices and over-production make them unwanted. "Why don't they leave us alone?" one asked me. "All right, one perhaps I have made a bit of a mess on the land, but I never hurt anyone. I just want to be left alone to get on with my way of life. But the way the government's treating us right now, I don't know if I can survive."

I looked closely at him again. It wasn't actually a farmer. It was a hippie from the convoy. But it seemed a good summing up speech for both sides.

SPY/100/20



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 11 1878

The death toll in this disaster was thought to be 188. In this year at least 550 miners were killed in major pit accidents.

THE WOOD PIT COLLIERIES EXPLOSION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT) WIGAN, Monday Evening.

The hope that the number of lives lost by the Wood Pit explosion at Haydock on Friday would be only about 180 will, it is feared, prove groundless, and present information leads the management to conclude that the death toll will contain the names of over 200 men and boys. To-day the relatives of the sufferers have been receiving the usual general allowances - £10 for a full member and £5 for a half member of the Colliery Sick and Burial Fund, and from the particulars furnished by them it has been found that there were in the mine at the time of the accident many more poor fellows than was supposed yesterday. This is accounted for by the fact that some of the colliers employ their own drawers or assistants. This seam is said to be a very good one for the colliers, and, having had a few days' holiday, they were working hard to get out as much coal as possible, and some appear to have had two change drawers removing the coal from their working places to the pit eye. In these circumstances, the correct number will not be obtained until inquiries have been made throughout the district, which is a scattered one, and this is at present being done.

The work of exploring the mine has been continued without interruption since the accident occurred, but, considering the large number of men at work, only slow progress has been made, showing that the task has been both difficult and dangerous. Much gas has been met with during the inspection, and the moving of this has given much trouble, and, in addition, large falls of roof blocked the road. Mr. Hedgley was in charge during last night, and today Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Hall were down the shaft. The explorers have reached the top of the rise workings, and it is expected the bulk of the bodies of those killed will shortly be found. About 20 had been found up to this afternoon, and these will be brought to the surface to-night.

Thirty-nine of the recovered bodies have been identified. Nothing has as yet been discovered which gives any clue to the cause of the disaster. Without doubt, a large quantity of gas must have found its way into the workings, and it is supposed by some that this gas has come from the Wigan six-foot mine, or what is known in this district as the fiery nine feet, which is met in almost a direct line on the opposite side of the fault by the Florida seam, the one in which the explosion occurred. As showing the force of the blast, it may be stated that a train of empty wagons which was running down the tunnel at the time of the explosion was driven up against the roof with such violence as not only to smash them into pieces, but also to force them through the brick archway forming the tunnel. Probably this impeded the blast and saved the shaft and other portions of the workings. Beyond this point in the mine not a single soul has been brought out alive, and it is believed that all in the workings from this spot must have been killed in an instant by the terrible explosion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES Sir, At a time when the riotous behaviour of some of the men of Lancashire has shocked the community, I cannot resist calling the attention of your readers to points of character of a far more encouraging description. I saw in the crowd around the pit's mouth on Friday evening last. It was about three hours after the 30 volunteers went down. A single man had no difficulty in keeping back at a distance of some 20 yards from the mouth of the pit a dense crowd, silent, motionless, and with their hands and faces pale. It was about three hours after the 30 volunteers went down. A single man had no difficulty in keeping back at a distance of some 20 yards from the mouth of the pit a dense crowd, silent, motionless, and with their hands and faces pale. It was about three hours after the 30 volunteers went down. A single man had no difficulty in keeping back at a distance of some 20 yards from the mouth of the pit a dense crowd, silent, motionless, and with their hands and faces pale.

All this and much besides - especially the respectful dignity with which the men stepped into their places in the cage to be lowered - must have been seen and realized with what a majesty these colliers face a cold-blooded death in living tombs. Also one had not ridden four miles from the scene before it became manifest that the appalling news had swept through the country and left it almost indifferent. The pigeon, the dog, the drinking and swearing had already resumed their way, and the bitter reflection suggested itself. What a people this might be if the crust of short-sighted folly and ignorance could be broken through and the latent splendour of their character brought to light! I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, A. J. SWINBOURNE.

A parfit knight

From Captain R. Hamilton Sir, LORING, Sir Nigel, b 1327, s of Eustace Loring (killed in action, 1340). Knighted on battlefield, Poitiers, 1356, m, November 1356, Mary, d of Sir John Buttetworth; one d, Maude, b 1357, Constable to Earl of Salisbury, 1373. Address: Twynham Castle, Hampshire; Tilford Manor, Surrey. Your correspondent, Sir Nigel Strutt (June 6), will surely forgive me for putting the earlier eques praefectus in his correct context, not in the reign of William II (not really a Good King) but in that of Edward III (a rather Better King). Yours faithfully, R. HAMILTON, West Dean, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Resolving conflict within Alliance

From Mr. M. Steed and others Sir, The well-publicised difference between Dr Owen and the compromise policy reportedly recommended by the Liberal/SDP Alliance's defence commission is only part of a bigger problem facing the Alliance.

The well-established Liberal opposition to the principle of an independent British nuclear deterrent is as clear a position, held with as much conviction by most Liberals, as Dr Owen's commitment to replacing Polaris. Since Liberal policy is made by its assembly and council, the proposed compromise may well prove as unacceptable to the Liberal party as it evidently is to Dr Owen.

The bigger problem for the Alliance, of which each of us is a member, is that it lacks a machinery to resolve differences in common. On most issues, our separately reached policies are close enough to allow common position to be found by negotiations between our respective policy committees.

But any attempt to resolve our clear differences on defence by imposing a decision reached at the top would fail to carry the support of a large number of candidates and only expose our divisions, and to which the public or a section of it is expressly or impliedly granted access.

Unless those important preventive powers are extended to cover all types of land (as the CLA has for so long been urging) the police will be hindered, potential damage to property will be greater and the convoys will be encouraged to trespass to avoid the imposition of these conditions. This loophole really must be closed.

Yours faithfully, JOHN NORRIS, President, Country Landowners Association, 16 Belgrave Square, SW1, June 9.

From the Reverend P. J. W. Raine and the Reverend T. J. Selwood Sir, We are parish priests working in the parish of Minstead which includes on its borders the airfield of Stoney Cross on which a number of "nomads" have recently arrived.

We took the opportunity over June 2 and 3, in between other parish work, to spend about eight hours visiting these "nomads" in their encampments. Almost invariably we received a friendly welcome as we listened to their accounts of their aims and life style.

We were saddened to hear the language used in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary and other members of Parliament describing them as "medieval brigands" or to similar intemperate vein. Such emotive language gives an entirely false impression of a group of people whose lifestyle we have no desire to emulate, but who we feel deserve the consideration and facilities offered to other nomadic groups.

We remain, yours sincerely, P. J. W. RAINE, T. J. SELWOOD, The Rectory, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, June 4.

Alternative energy

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRs Sir, It was kind of your Science Editor, in his article on May 27, to recall with such favourable comments my time at the Department of Energy. But, in fairness to my professor and my successors, I should emphasize that the aim of the investigations I inherited and supported was to study the different means of energy production, in order to see which should be pursued further.

It was wholly to be expected that such studies would lead to the conclusion, in some of the cases, that the prospects did not justify further work and I am not surprised that this conclusion has been reached for wave power, largely on economic grounds. Wind power has gone ahead well and it is surely a matter for satisfaction that the biggest US contract in this field has gone to a British firm.

Neither wave nor tidal power can be described as "cheap", as is clear from the published figures. Yours faithfully, HERMAN BONDI, Master, Churchill College, Cambridge.

Britain and Unesco

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath (Conservative) Sir, Rosemary Righter's argument, in her article of May 29, that current developments in Unesco justify Britain's decision to leave the organisation at the end of the last year is hardly surprising in view of her past strong advocacy of withdrawal; but to others who have followed the Unesco crisis from a more objective viewpoint, this is standing logic on its head.

Things have indeed turned sour, and many of the developments are worrying but where does the main responsibility lie? It was quite clear at the end of last year that if Britain persisted in pulling out despite all the progress achieved towards reform and the unanimous appeal from our Community and Commonwealth partners to stay and work for further change from within, there would be a strong third world

law to remove or paint out graffiti within days, hopefully, encouraged by Government compensation. This will not be expensive in the long term because graffiti encourage more graffiti. Being realistic, in that these activities reflect a form of mis-directed creative energy, it would be advisable to redirect them to designated hoardings chosen in areas of concentrated spraycan vandalism. Yours faithfully, BRIAN HOBLEY, Chief Urban Archaeologist, The Museum of London, London Wall, EC2, June 4.

From Mr Mark Stevenson Sir, Like Mrs Thatcher, who has apparently had her eyes closed for some time, I have been appalled by the amount of rubbish littering British streets.

Chernobyl aid acknowledged

From the Soviet Ambassador Sir, May I rely on the good offices of your newspaper to express most heart-felt gratitude for hundreds of letters of sympathy which came to the Soviet Embassy in the wake of the Chernobyl accident.

Many contained generous offers of aid and donations. We highly appreciate these expressions of good will on the part of the British political and public figures, trade unions and other organizations, families and individuals.

I should like to stress the necessity of greater international co-operation in this sphere of peaceful endeavour to ensure safe use of nuclear energy.

Could I mention that Moscow Monday Bank Ltd, 81 King William Street, London EC4 4JS, has opened an account for the Chernobyl Relief Fund (No. 141505 CRF). Yours faithfully, L. ZAMYATIN, Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Kensington Palace Gardens, W8, June 5.

Nuclear challenge

From Mr Graham Chaine Sir, Let us not extend the illusions of unilateralism from nuclear weapons to the wider field of nuclear power.

Mr Robert Jackson (June 2). Perhaps we are looking down the wrong end of the telescope. The danger at the moment is the widespread unilateral development of nuclear power, not anyone's abstention.

I have so far seen no mention of any response from anywhere in the world to Mr Gorbachov's remarkable proposal (report, May 15) that there should be an international regime of safe development of nuclear power among all the nations concerned, and I fear that a vital opportunity may have been missed.

Nuclear power, unlike any previous form of energy, presents a challenge to the human race as a whole. We have seen how its misuse, or incompetent use, may affect not only those immediately involved but also innocent people in the far corners of the world, beyond political frontiers or the pale of ideologies.

Surely common sense tells us that it is potentially too dangerous - and too important for the technological advance of the whole planet - to continue to be managed on a secretive national basis. If an advanced nation like the Soviet Union can perpetrate a Chernobyl, what must we fear from some of the less developed nations? To the lessons of Chernobyl must be added those of Bhopal.

Of course it must remain with individual nations to decide whether they wish to employ nuclear power, and many may now feel that the risks are too great. But all should be entitled to full knowledge of, and participation in, the construction and maintenance of installations beyond their territorial borders. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM CHAINE, 47 St Barnabas Road, Cambridge, June 2.

Forest forecasts

From Mrs B. M. Burley Sir, The folklore rhyme quoted by W. J. Burroughs in his article on the weather (June 4) contradicts that which I remember - perhaps be it from another part of the forest? Briefly, the version I know is: ash before ash, in for a splash, ash before oak, in for a soak.

Burroughs' invaluable dictionary has the complete lines. The fire and smoke mentioned in Mr Burroughs's rhyme have surely only been part of our late summer scene for a very few recent years, and farmers, not the weather, have been the cause. Unless his rhyme dates from Viking times?

Ash did come into leaf before oak locally this year. Perhaps we should all learn the version I know: ash before ash, in for a splash, ash before oak, in for a soak. Brewer's invaluable dictionary has the complete lines. The fire and smoke mentioned in Mr Burroughs's rhyme have surely only been part of our late summer scene for a very few recent years, and farmers, not the weather, have been the cause. Unless his rhyme dates from Viking times?

Softly, softly From Mr H. C. Dyer Sir, From Mr Pertwee (June 3) wishes to stop people slamming his car's doors he has only to label them "This door has zero torque"; everybody will then be scared of going near them, let alone slamming them. Yours truly, MALCOLM DYER, The Beach, Much Marcle, Ludbury, Herefordshire, June 4.

Cleaning up

From Mr Brian Hobbey Sir, Mr Richard Branson, in his new role of chairman of "Operation Faceit", should include the removal of graffiti in the clean-up scheme for Britain. There can be no doubt that spraycan graffiti are on the increase. British Rail properties and equipment in London are particularly subject to this New York fashion for huge, multi-coloured letters - e.g. Kilburn High Road Station.

Unless society as a whole combats this architecturally destructive vandalism immediately, the visual quality of our cities will be destroyed and the cost grow beyond the remedy of both Government and the private individual. Tourism will ultimately be affected with the loss of important revenue. Owners should be obliged by

THE WAY TO THE STARS

When the presidential commission began its investigation of the destruction of the Challenger space shuttle, little hope was held out of finding the precise cause of the explosion.

The report also confirms that the accident was caused primarily by faulty design of the joints connecting the segments of the solid rocket booster, the "O-ring" seals, which failed. In eight out of eight tests conducted for the commission, under the same temperature conditions, the same type of seals failed.

Warnings about their safety, delivered by engineers and contractors the night before the launch, were ignored because NASA officials were anxious not to miss another deadline. The alarm was also sounded by Allan McDonald and Roger Boisjoly, engineers at the seals' manufacturer, Morton Thiokol. But the call to postpone the launch was overruled by management at both NASA and the company.

In unravelling this sequence of events, the commission has identified an attitude at NASA that amounts, at the very least, to intellectual corruption. NASA runs a procurement system which ignores competition in favour of sole source contracts. Judgement by officials is thus substituted for technical merit adjudicated in a competitive market. One of the results of such a process is to discourage dissent about innovation, which is the very life-blood of technology. It also generated a strange view of accountability. For instance, the two engineers who opposed the launch decision were fired by Morton Thiokol for revealing the truth in evidence to the inquiry. They were later reinstated at the insistence of the commission.

The indefinite grounding of the three remaining shuttles, and the end of the Titan and Delta launchers, denuded America for the first time in 20 years of an immediate ability to launch either a large military or commercial satellite. Among other things, it put competition remains the best basis for testing mergers. When important new issues or boats of excess crop up, exceptions could be made without embarrassment, if markets need encouragement to take a more rounded view.

The mechanism for vetting mergers does, however, need reform. The Monopolies Commission has become too blunt an instrument so that references to the Commission rather than its conclusions often decide mergers, especially when a subsequent rival offer is not referred - a bad practice that should go. As a result, informal Whitehall vetting has assumed too great a role.

The whole process should be halved in length, principally by speeding up the six month Commission deliberation. This will require more intense working than the one and a half days a week that part-time Commission members are expected to devote to investigations. If the mechanism were brought into line with the faster tempo of business life today, much of the political soul-searching and business and public disquiet over basic competition policy might be unnecessary.

Brund, whose law department is of comparatively recent origin, or of the financial resources available for research at Cambridge compared to the younger and smaller Brunel, which does not have the benefit of scholarships or endowments. Worse, no account is taken of the undergraduate research undertaken at Brunel, where law students, for example, must produce a research paper based on field work placements in order to obtain their degrees, something quite unheard of at Cambridge.

Even with the gentlest probing there is every reason therefore to believe that if the UGC's own research were put forward for funding, any competent committee would dismiss it as unsound and unmerited. Yours truly, GAVIN PURVES, Managing Editor, Counsel, 1 Tottenham Road, Farncombe, Surrey.

University ratings

From Mr Gavin Purves Sir, Within my profession, the law, those who insist that the cream of new university talent comes from Oxbridge will be comforted to see the University Grants Committee rate the historic Cambridge as "outsanding", but the red-brick Brunel, for example, as simply "average".

There appears to have been no comparison of the relative size of the two law faculties or any recognition that there are very many fewer staff and postgraduate students available for research work at Brunel. No account is taken of the volume of resources for research available to lawyers at the century-old Cambridge compared to

THE WAY TO THE STARS

either by parachute or water landings at low altitudes. The report also confirms that the accident was caused primarily by faulty design of the joints connecting the segments of the solid rocket booster, the "O-ring" seals, which failed. In eight out of eight tests conducted for the commission, under the same temperature conditions, the same type of seals failed.

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Answering back

From Mr Keith Roberts Sir, We used to see that our boys at the junior school of which I was headmaster always wrote a thank-you letter. I remember on one occasion a very young boy walked down the steps and said to the person who was taking him out: "Here is my thank-you letter". Yours faithfully, KEITH ROBERTS, The Old School House, Strathan, Lochinver, Sutherland.

Wilson front of patients... m't beat power... S. op into w 8256 es mation lication m tried h our £499 ex orage. ger 11 t Prestel (worth ...£99.95 ...£99.00 ns for ...£49.95

THE ARTS

Television Point of review

Within the BBC it is a commonly held truth that the only effective way for producers to communicate with the management is via the Duty Log. Most producers reserve this hot line for their own programmes. Placing a handkerchief over the telephone, pinching their noses and impersonating a licence-payer from Upper Swell, they tell the poor Duty Officer that the programme was nothing short of a masterpiece and the sooner it is repeated the better. This information is typed out and relayed next day to the Sixth Floor, who treat it as a blueprint for their summer schedule (having borne in mind that repeat agreements for a programme only last a specific time). In June the chickens of Upper Swell come home to roost.

For those who have sickened of watching football - by now, I suspect, most of the nation - last night was a low point in the television calendar. About the only original programme on BBC1 was Points of View. Not that everything else was bad - or as bad - but it was recycled. The most charming repeat was The Home Front (BBC1). Fondly produced by Francesca Kirby-Green, it was a record of how the small village of Apsley Guise coped with the Second World War. What made it particularly riveting was Dick Sinfield's home-movie which was shown, forty years on, before the assembled community. Watching the limp colour footage of these stalwarts as healthy children on VE Day was like flicking through a nation's family snaps.

Among those who recognized their younger selves as the lady of the manor, an evasive from London who had never seen a rabbit, and a widow whose husband fell in action. Then they were bonded in friendship by the war. Uniting them today was the spectacle of time passing so tangibly, like a flower blooming and wilting in fast motion. Strangers coming upon Apsley Guise are no doubt treated to honey and tea. Castration was once the fate of those who stumbled upon the Ajar warriors in the Ethiopian desert. Not however Wilfred Thesiger, who in the 1930s poked his swooping nose into this romantic race. The Vanishing Tribes of Africa (Channel 4) sat him with the Travellers' Club and let him make some very observations about his ancient journey. This was juxtaposed, rather spuriously, I thought, with Goetz Wille's excellent film of today's gifted community. Urgent commentary tried to impose on the present tribe some of their old savagery, implying that any man sitting innocently by his sulphurous water-hole was a threat to the passing tourists' genitals. Nicholas Shakespeare

The South Bank, post-GLC, is destined to be a centre of innovation: Paul Griffiths reports Bringing London's music up to date

The brave new signs of ownership have all been obliterated from the South Bank, but perhaps the longest shadow of the late GLC has yet to fall. In the old days the Festival Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room were just boxes into which things were put: orchestras and managements could hire them and then do pretty much what they wanted. It was the GLC who decided there ought to be a policy for the halls. But, though their interference was roundly deplored, it turned out to be of the mildest cast: and craft-shops sprouted in the foyers, there were perhaps a few more evenings devoted to non-European cultures, and for the summer there might be an end-of-the-pier show of Tory-bashing, while things went on inside the halls mainly as before.

Now that it has been awakened, however, the daemon of an artistic policy refuses to go back to sleep; and where the GLC failed to make any fundamental change, their successors, the South Bank Board, have very definite ideas about what they want to do. In the autumn of 1988, which is the first period when they will be in effective control of programming, there is to be a festival of contemporary music to include celebrations of Messiaen, Carter, Stockhausen and Steve Reich as well as, most ambitiously, the instant reprise of new works that will have been introduced at new music festivals (Strasbourg is already plugged in as a source, and obviously negotiations would also have to be opened with Donat-Caschigna, Metz and Venice).

There are also to be festivals in the same season devoted to Bartók (under Soli), Strauss (under Ashkenazy) and Brahms and Schoenberg (with Previn due to extend his repertory in an unlikely direction). Even before that, in 1987-88, a new face is to be brought to the smaller halls with a festival of electronic music, while plans are going ahead for the conversion of the QEH into an opera theatre, with the promise of an adventurous repertory from Monteverdi to Britten given in association with Covent Garden, the English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Kent Opera and Opera Factory-London Sinfonietta.

One does not have to be particularly timorous or conservative to stand a little aghast at the scale of the undertaking, and Nicholas Snowman, the new artistic director of the South Bank Centre, seems aware of the problems. Revolutions, one suggests, are expensive: funds will be sought from commercial sponsors for structural alterations to the QEH and for establishing an electronic-music system, while foreign cultural bodies are expected to chip in when it comes to bringing new music here. The QEH will lose its old (if never very satisfactory) role as a home of chamber music: oo it will not, says Snowman, but orchestras and quartets will have to arrange their schedules around the operatic performances, and may have to perform within bits of set,

which might be intriguing. The big orchestras, one goes on, will never agree, but here Snowman's experience is interesting. The system is not, after all, to be so totalitarian as it might appear. The byword is flexibility, and the various themes and festivals will not gobble up the whole schedule: there will be dates for orchestras to present their own programmes, though priority is going to programmes that fit into the grand strategy. And, as it turns out, the orchestras are not at all resistant to the Snowman scheme. The Philharmonia, for instance, have found with their Mahler-Strauss and post-Debussy series under Simon Rattle that there is an audience for intelligently planned concerts. Moreover, all the orchestras must have discovered that their repertory is being nibbled away from the past end by chamber orchestras and the "authentic" school. It is now almost impossible for a large orchestra to play Bach or Handel, and their opportunities to play Mozart and Haydn are declining, partly because few soloists now want to play classical concertos with a big band in the Festival Hall. If they do not move a little further into the twentieth century, they may find themselves eventually hemmed into the period from Brahms to Mahler. Perhaps that is why the LPO, not hitherto very radical in their programming, have come to Snowman with the idea of a complete concert performance of Messiaen's *St Francois d'Assise*.



Nicholas Snowman, new artistic director on the South Bank: hard-line modernist experience

one cannot expect modern music to offer the same satisfactions. But, since orchestras who played only Tchaikovsky would soon be playing him very poorly, the health of musical life in London can only be improved by a few humane shoves to counteract our seemingly innate lethargy.



Narrative power: Nigel Terry (right) with David de Keyser in *Prairie du chien*

Film, Film, Film

Struck by some fancied resemblance between Shakespearean drama and the soap-operaic kitch pumped out by Indian film studios, Farrukh Dhondy has set out to hang a critique of the values of those studios on to the bare bones of *King Lear*. A veteran producer decides to retire. His two elder daughters convince him that they will carry on the family tradition, supplying what the public wants to see, and he gives them each a film studio. It comes as no surprise when the youngest daughter tells him the films he has been making for 40 years are reactionary trash. "Take her away!" cries the outraged father, in one of the play's better lines. "Let her ideas be her dowry!" Off she goes to make a documentary that wins a prize

Theatre

at the Tyneside Festival. Her sisters meanwhile are squabbling over the illustrious new star of their films. Father totters about in the maddening encounter of the underdog of society but, without learning from the experience. As a criticism of the values operating in today's Hollywood, the play is entirely disappointing. Far too many scenes are slackly written. A car accident is staged cleverly, by the Dutch director Laurens C. Postma; and the appearance, stage left, of the cocoon of an Air India Boeing introduces an uncommon scenic effect. The rare moments of parody work best. Zia Mohyeddin delivers his more sayable lines with the whiplash of authority, and Nizwar Karanj gives another of his attractive (though not always clearly spoken) performances as the Fool. He catches the irresistible cheek but out the pathos, of course, because it is not that kind of play. An attempt is made to bring together stage performances and filmed episodes. This does not work either.

Prairie du chien/The Show! Royal Court Upstairs

David Mamet's double bill of new plays, receiving their European premiere, is an exercise in American chiaroscuro. Each plot hinges, curiously, on the burning of an item of red female apparel; both productions are enlivened by short explosions of violence, either physical or verbal; and the whole evening shows once again, the skill of the dialect coach Joan Washington. *Prairie du chien*, impeccably directed by Max Stafford-Clark, devotes very late one night to 1910 on a train between Chicago and Duluth. On one side of the plush "parlor car" Michael Feast and Jerome Flynn are starting their Nth hand of gin rummy; on the other, Nigel Terry is favouring David de Keyser with a laborious and rather Poe-like story of infidelity, murder and suicide; before them lies a boy, apparently asleep.

Ameling/Jansen St John's/Radio 3

To hear the soprano Ely Ameling and the pianist Rudolf Jansen at work in the French and German song repertoire is to observe two kindred musical spirits in unshakable alliance. The description "instinctive" or "telepathic" springs to mind. But that really only describes the illusion that the partners create; their artistry is actually the opposite of improvisatory. Every single note will have been weighted and coloured according to a long-considered scheme. Just once in this lunch-hour of music-making did the two seem set on divergent courses: in Fauré's "Mandoline", where Ameling overdid more

St Johannes Passion Union Chapel

In a programme-note for his 1981 work *St Johannes Passion*, the composer Arvo Pärt requests "infinite patience" from his audience. Certainly this austere, deceptively simple choral ritual demands patience. It is an 80-minute act of artistic self-denial which barely acknowledges the Latin text's dramatic possibilities of the 20th century's musical developments, less still those of the 19th or 18th. One is reminded most of the unaccompanied, plainsong-inflected Passions of the 17th-century composer Heinrich Schütz. But the rewards for listeners are not infinitely postponed. The recurring minor-moded cadential patterns; the slow-moving, unmetred rhythms; the restrained aptness of the note-against-note instrumental counterpoints: all this quickly casts a hypnotic spell. In this rarefied atmosphere little details acquire large meaning. A slight change in the registration and texture of the important organ part (neatly played by Christopher Bowers-Broadbent) is enough

Concerts

time for her ironic nuances than Jansen, wittily imitating the eponymous instrument with quick and spiky figurations, was prepared to allow. Elsewhere, however, the recital was a triumph of rapport, whether the duo were matching a milky vocal legato to languid keyboard arpeggios (as in Fauré's "Son" or maintaining tight ensemble through the vivid pictorial scramble of Poulenc's "Il vole"). There is perhaps an element of compensation about Ameling's sophisticated and imaginative treatment of *Lieder*. Her basic tonal quality does not readily supply the natural freshness that would ideally suit the group of Schubert "spring" songs with which she opened. So she works extraordinarily hard to entice the ear by superb

Richard Morrison

is split by Pärt between four voices, singing either alone or in different combinations of astringent homophony; members of the Hilliard Ensemble struck the right vein of astringent lyricism here. Their music is enhanced by a quartet of instruments (well played by members of Capricorn) which are often employed singly, providing... disarmingly un-complicated echoes of the voices. Pärt also makes limited but telling use of a larger chorus, given bolder harmonies and framing the work with the most explicit emotional outbursts the composer allows. The chorus Western Wind (a new one to me) managed this with exemplary intonation and clarity. R.M.

Advertisement for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Royal Opera House. Includes details about the production, conductor Roderick Brydon, and performance dates: June 17, 20, 25, July 4, 7, 10 at 7.30PM.

Large advertisement for Nescafé Blend 37 coffee. Features a can of coffee, a cup of coffee, and a promotional offer of 15p off. Text includes 'Always a particular pleasure' and 'Richer, Darker, Distinctly Continental'.

Vertical text on the right margin containing various small notices and advertisements, including 'the that in extra les by etc is ut its next', 'its, at from illion £725 £900', 'insor-, the J ser- 10p to y gain', 'inster ng its crisey) ner of J News s Press. spected', 'A APV er 2p to ned its ent to r Ben- acting another APV at', 'r a total are, of votes. 1955p.', '21 office cent car- it is es- mpleted million. R RE- WEST- Second 73p for 1986. 3p. This directors' erim re- 3p and a xeriod to', 'CORP: 1. 1986. £6.58 £333,052 per share Ph. The company e second auction g and it crop and tion. OENIX 11-year to turnover Loss be- 31,914. 36.17p', 'op into W 8256 ces rmation ulation im tried h our (£499 ex orage. ger 11) It r Prestel. (worth ...£99.95 ...£99.00 rts for ...£49.95', 'itain and may G

VAT relief for charity goods sent overseas

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is to stop charging value-added tax on goods sent overseas by charities.

At present donations by traders of such items as shoes and clothes which are sent to relief organisations abroad attract VAT.

Mr Peter Brooke, Minister of State at the Treasury, announced the concession in a letter last night to Mr Robert Hayward, Conservative MP for Kingswood.

Mr Hayward had raised the case of a constituent, a second-hand shoe dealer, who for many years has sent thousands of pairs of shoes to Polish relief organisations but has had to pay VAT.

The tax is not payable on goods donated for sale by charities established primarily for the relief of distress. But it

is payable on goods donated for export, even though exports themselves are relieved of VAT.

Mr Brooke told Mr Hayward that he accepted there was an anomaly in the law. He went on: "The zero rating of goods donated for sale by a charity established primarily for the relief of distress will now be extended to goods donated for export by such a charity."

Customs and Excise was unable to say last night how much was collected each year in VAT on such goods.

But Mr Hayward said: "This is a marvellous step forward for people and firms who send clothes and other goods to relief organisations for floods and disasters. It is a most welcome move by the Government."

Thatcher and Kinnoch clash on BA choice

Continued from page 1

While ministers are unwilling to speculate on what would happen if BA did buy American, some of them believe that the Government would be forced to intervene to prevent that happening. Some Conservative backbenchers believe it unthinkable that the Government would allow Rolls-Royce to lose the order when it is committed to privatise the company some time next year.

The political controversy will grow today when Rolls-Royce, led by their chairman Sir Francis Tomlin, give evidence before the House of Commons select committee on trade and industry.

BA plans to replace up to 20 of its ageing 747 aircraft by the end of the decade with the new Boeing 747-400 capable of flying 8,000 miles nonstop and the choice of power unit will be crucial to the fleet's operating costs.

The choice is between the GE CF6-80C2 and the R-R RB211-524D4D, both new technology, highly fuel-efficient engines. Replacement of BA's Trident jets by the end of the 1980s could mean that the total order for engines could be worth £700m.

Mrs Thatcher appeared to some MPs to be hinting that the Government would not stand by when she said in the Commons that after BA had considered the evaluations and decided how many aircraft they wished to acquire they would have to put their proposals before the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr John Moore, for approval.

Mr Kinnoch told her she should be much more forthcoming and positive to ensure that the interests of Rolls-Royce, its workers and technologies were properly safeguarded.

Asked by Mr Kinnoch whether she was going to "bat for Britain" Mrs Thatcher replied: "Yes, but you do not bat for Britain by protecting industries. You bat for Britain by backing industries which win on merit."

Mr Moore told Mr Hayward that he accepted there was an anomaly in the law. He went on: "The zero rating of goods donated for sale by a charity established primarily for the relief of distress will now be extended to goods donated for export by such a charity."

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A resident of the devastated KTC squatter camp outside Cape Town, part of Crossroads, surveying the ruins of his home destroyed in the fighting.

20,000 township homeless

Continued from page 1

The violence in Crossroads broke out around lunchtime as the police used tear gas and birdshot to drive young militants, known as "contractors," off a ridge overlooking the settlement. They had lined up there opposite conservative vigilantes, whose white arm and head bands have earned them the name *witboeke* (white cloths).

The renewal of the inter-racial warfare in Crossroads on Monday and yesterday has halted the relief operation mounted by the St John Ambulance and the Red Cross for the estimated 30,000 refugees from the first bout of fighting last month in which 44 people died.

The Urban Foundation, a

private business lobby group, last night joined MPs of the Progressive Federal Party, the official opposition in the white chamber of Parliament, in calling for a judicial commission of inquiry into the Crossroads violence and allegations of police support for the vigilantes.

The parliamentary deadlock over the two security Bills, the Public Safety Amendment Bill and the Internal Security Amendment Bill, means that it is now virtually certain that they cannot be passed by June 16, the tenth anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising, when widespread disturbances are expected.

The Government is understood to have warned Indian and Coloured MP's that a state of emergency would have to be declared if the Bills were not passed this week.

The crisis came to a head at a meeting yesterday of the joint standing committee of the white, Indian and Coloured chambers at which the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, refused to amend the Bills in any significant way.

The Bills would give the police even wider scope for summary arrest and detention than at present, and enable Mr Le Grange to assume the equivalent of emergency powers in any part of the country deemed an "unrest area."

The other journalists injured yesterday were Mr Patrick Durand, a photographer working for the French agency SIFA, and Mr Bert van Hees, a reporter for a South African newspaper, who was shot in the arm by a sniper.

Crossroads tragedy, page 9

Hopes for cheaper mortgages recede

Continued from page 1

There has been much talk of impending EMS membership in the money markets. Mrs Thatcher's rejection helped the pound to gain two pennings to DM3.37 against the mark.

The poor money supply figures, while hitting immediate interest rate hopes, may also expose policy differences between the Bank of England and the Treasury.

The Treasury said yesterday that there was no reason to suppose that monetary conditions are lax, pointing to a £1.7 billion erratic item in the figures. Bank lending, which also increased by £1.7 billion, rose at a slower pace than over the previous six months.

Over the weekend, the Institute of Directors said that Britain should time her EMS entry to coincide with the assumption of the EEC presidency on July 1.

Mr Jack Ashley, the Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said that Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, should be called to account for his failure to take earlier action.

Children's aspirin sales are banned

Continued from page 1

and brain, and can produce permanent damage.

In Britain there are annually between three and seven cases per million children aged under 16. Although the illness is sometimes managed successfully in hospital, the death rate has been about 50 per cent.

Dr Acheson said: "We get about 50 cases a year in Britain, and only a few of these are believed to be due to aspirin. Evidence in this country and the United States points to aspirin as one possible contributory factor."

The first indication of an association between aspirin and the disease came from American studies between 1980 and 1982. Subsequently, the American Food and Drug Administration and manufacturers warned parents not to give the preparations to children and teenagers with influenza or chicken pox.

Consequently, the amount of aspirin taken for children's ailments has dropped significantly. More important, the incidence of Reye's syndrome was cut by more than half between 1984 and 1985, from 0.33 per 100,000 aged under 16 (264 cases reported) to 0.15 per 100,000 (91 cases).

When that information was compared with a new study completed in Britain by the Paediatric Association and the Public Health Laboratory Services Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, covering 229 cases in the British Isles in four years between 1981 and 1985, the medicines committee decided to act.

There are important differences in the pattern of the disease between Britain and the US. The age at which it occurs in Britain is much lower; the median age of patients in Britain is 14 months, and 93 per cent of cases are in children aged under 12.

Mr Jack Ashley, the Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said that Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, should be called to account for his failure to take earlier action.

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen opens the new medical precinct of The Royal College of Physicians, St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, 3.30.

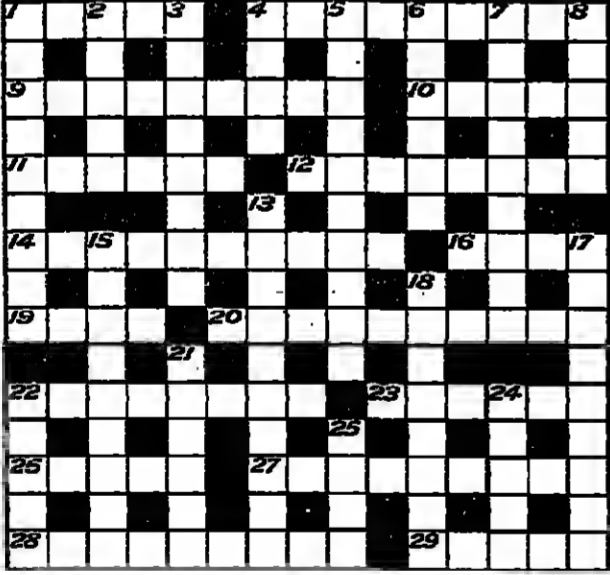
The Duke of Edinburgh presents the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers 1985 Prince Philip Award and Certificates of Merit, Buckingham Palace, 10; and later visits Cambridge University to confer Honorary Degrees, 12.40; Duxford, Cambridgeshire, 11.30.

Princess Andrew opens the Imperial War Museum's new "supermarket", Duxford, Cambridgeshire, 11.30.

Princess Anne opens the European headquarters of Amagahi Corporation, Dogmersfield Park, Hartley Witney, 11; and later, as President, the Riding for the Disabled Association, visits the

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,069

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 38 per cent of the competitors in this year's Birmingham regional final of the Collins Dictionary's Times Crossword Championship.



ACROSS
1 Fish from a rod (5)
4 One of those heard over the sea, example of a small type (5)
9 Tall, say, is very exact (9)
10 Dull cheer-leaders for such a sporting competition? (5)
11 Sound French article cut (6)
12 Crumb's Sveogali has gone mad (8)
14 Describing Pythagorean theorem subsequently in examination (10)
15 Statesman's tug (4)
19 Boat people look inside for a sound (15-1)
22 Bond means for churning cheese (8)
23 The captain stands here, where glasses are kept (6)
26 Potential seed finds free love around university (5)
27 Dropping punishment involving an awful jerk (9)
28 Brother changed forenames (9)
29 Lets rip in front of society (5)
DOWN
1 Work that is blocking the floor (9)
2 Vaughan Williams's piece of orchestral fantasy (5)
3 Main road to Scotland, though it takes longer (4,4)
4 Circle Lie? (4)

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending June 11:

- 1 EastEnders (Thurs/Sun) 20.20m
- 2 EastEnders (Thurs/Sun) 19.25m
- 3 News (Sun) 19.20m
- 4 That's Life (12.30m)
- 5 That's Life (12.30m)
- 6 Cagney and Lacey (10.50m)
- 7 Today's Top Gear (10.40m)
- 8 All Creatures Great and Small (10.20m)
- 9 News (Sun) 10.00m
- 10 News (Sun) and Weather (Sat) 21.50/10.00m

TV top ten

Channel 4

- 1 Britain On View 5.35m
- 2 Brookside (Tue/Thu) 5.35m
- 3 Brookside (Mon) 5.35m
- 4 Open Space 3.10m
- 5 News 3.05m
- 6 News 3.05m
- 7 Countdown (Tue) 3.05m
- 8 The Comedy Show 3.05m
- 9 The Comedy Show 3.05m
- 10 Million Dollar Morned 2.90m

Roads

The Midlands: M1: Roadworks continue between junctions 15 (A508) and 16 (A45); contraflow. M5: Major roadworks between junctions 4 (Bromsgrove) and 5 (Droitwich); contraflow. A5: Traffic reduced to a single lane at Weston under Lizard, E of Telford; temporary lights.

Wales and West: M5: Roadworks between junctions 23 and 24; N and southbound outside lanes closed. M4: Lane restrictions between junctions 21 and 22 (Severn Bridge); delays expected. A38: N and southbound lane closures on the Plymouth to Exeter road and the Ivybridge to Ashburton Rd.

The North: M6: Rebuilding work on concrete section between junctions 32 and 33; both carriageways affected at different times. M63: Major widening scheme at Barton bridge. Greater Manchester: various traffic restrictions until June 20; avoid if possible. A49: Work in connection with construction of Tarpoley bypass; care required N and S of Tarpoley.

Scotland: M9: Roadworks between Pinnhill and Kinnaird; inside lane on both carriageways closed. Southdown: carriageway closed on Berryknowes Rd between Carham Drive and Kingsland Drive; two way northbound.

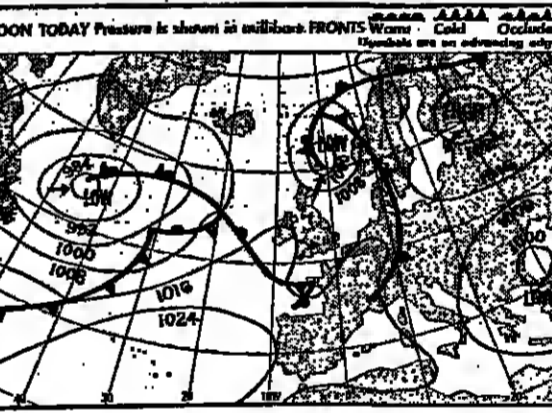
Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Motions on social security benefits. Financial Services Bill, progress on remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Gas Bill, committee, seventh day.

Weather forecast

A depression to the N of Scotland will move away slowly N and fill. A further small low will move across SW areas.

6 am to midnight



High Tides

Locality	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.53	8.9	5.03	8.6
Aberdeen	4.11	8.8	4.53	8.7
Cardiff	10.17	11.3	10.25	11.4
Belfast	2.03	3.2	2.27	3.8
10.02	10.5	10.10	10.6	
Birmingham	4.9	6.0	4.7	6.1
Dover	1.46	2.0	1.46	2.1
Falmouth	8.21	4.6	8.20	4.7
London	8.17	9.0	8.17	9.0
Hull	2.45	3.7	2.59	3.7
Newcastle	6.51	6.1	6.51	6.8
Hull	5.13	6.6	5.47	6.4
Liverpool	9.01	8.0	8.13	8.1
London	8.23	8.1	8.23	8.1
London	2.00	6.5	2.04	6.3
London	12.25	2.1	12.20	2.3
London	2.59	4.9	3.17	4.4
London	6.18	1.1	6.22	1.2
London	8.51	8.1	8.47	8.5
London	7.53	4.7	8.03	4.9
London	9.25	1.5	10.02	1.7
London	1.12	4.1	2.46	4.1
London	2.52	5.5	2.25	5.5
London	3.36	4.1	2.12	4.1
London	8.23	8.2	8.36	8.3
London	9.39	4.9	7.12	4.7
London	2.14	6.1	2.47	6.0
London	1.92	4.1	2.46	4.1
London	2.12	5.5	2.25	5.5
London	3.36	4.1	2.12	4.1
London	8.23	8.2	8.36	8.3
London	9.39	4.9	7.12	4.7

Around Britain

Locality	Sun	Moon	Max	C	F
East Coast	7.32	17.03	16	cloudy	
London	7.32	17.03	16	cloudy	
West Coast	7.32	17.03	16	cloudy	
North	7.32	17.03	16	cloudy	
South	7.32	17.03	16	cloudy	

Abroad

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; g, fog; r, rain; s, sun; m, snow; t, thunder.

Locality	C	F
Algeria	18	28
Amsterdam	12	22
Ankara	18	28
Antwerp	12	22
Athens	18	28
Bangkok	22	32
Barcelona	18	28
Berlin	12	22
Bombay	28	38
Buenos Aires	18	28
Calcutta	28	38
Cardiff	12	22
Chicago	18	28
Cairo	28	38
Cape Town	18	28
Cebu	28	38
Colon	28	38
Dacca	28	38
Dakar	18	28
Delhi	28	38
Dhaka	28	38
Dublin	12	22
Edinburgh	12	22
Geneva	12	22
Havana	28	38
Harare	18	28
Houston	18	28
Jaipur	28	38
Jakarta	28	38
Johannesburg	18	28
Kolkata	28	38
London	12	22
Lombard	18	28
Lyons	12	22
Manila	28	38
Moscow	18	28
Mountain View	18	28
Mumbai	28	38
New York	18	28
Osaka	28	38
Paris	12	22
Rangoon	28	38
Reykjavik	12	22
Rome	18	28
Singapore	28	38
Sydney	18	28
Taipei	28	38
Tokyo	28	38
Washington	18	28
Zurich	12	22

Portfolio Gold

Times Portfolio Gold rules are as follows:

- 1 Times Portfolio is free. Purchase of The Times is not a condition of investment.
- 2 Times Portfolio list comprises a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times.
- 3 The list is compiled from the company's shares which are divided into four groups of 11 shares. Every portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a total of 22 shares.
- 4 The list is compiled from the company's shares which are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times.
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- 9 The list is compiled from the company's shares which are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times.
- 10 The list is compiled from the company's shares which are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times.

Anniversaries

Births: Ben Jonson, London, 1572; John Constable, East Bergholt, Suffolk, 1776; Mrs Humphry Ward, novelist, Hobart Town, Tasmania, 1851; Richard Strauss, Munich, 1864; Deaths: George I (reigned 1714-27); Osnabruck, Germany, 1772; Sir John Franklin, explorer, King William Island, 1847; Alexander Kerensky, revolutionary, New York, 1970.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 8 am, 11.20 am, 5.45 pm and again at 6.15 pm.

سکون انصار

THE TIMES FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1314.4 (-15.1)
FT-SE 100 1588.4 (-18.2)
Bargains 24710
USM (Datastream) 121.82 (-0.13)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.5185 (+0.0200)
W German mark 3.3680 (+0.0211)
Trade-weighted 75.9 (+0.5)

London International bid for Wedgwood referred

The £150 million bid by the London International Group for the Wedgwood china and pottery company lapsed yesterday after being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

However, a diversified consumer products group, vowing to fight on and retain its 10 per cent stake in Wedgwood until the result of the commission's enquiries are released.

The decision by the Office of Fair Trading was apparently based on worries over the share of the UK ceramic tableware and giftware market, which would be controlled by LI if it were to merge Wedgwood with its Royal Worcester Spode division.

Wedgwood maintained that a combined operation would control some 26-1/2 per cent of the market, although LI argued that the figure was slightly below the 25 per cent yardstick which can be crucial in such referrals.

Wedgwood enhanced the good news by announcing a 29

per cent rise in pretax profits from £13.1 million to £19.5 million in the year to March 31. Sales increased by 13 per cent at home and 7 per cent abroad, with record figures reported from Australia, Canada and Japan.

Earnings per share rose by 44 per cent after last November's nine-for-five rights issue and the final dividend was raised from 4.5p to 7.5p to make an annual total of 10p against 7.35p.

The results exceeded City expectations and Wedgwood shares, which had fallen 40p to 303p since the weekend on expectations of a referral, bounced back to end the day just 2p lower at 326p.

Wedgwood's chairman, Sir Arthur Bryan, who has headed his defence campaign on the contention that LI lacks experience in the fine china industry, was encouraged by the OFT decision which he said would "give us a chance to get the facts about Wedgwood on the table".

Disappointment and surprise in the LI camp were mixed with a determination to see the matter through and retain the 10 per cent stake in Wedgwood which was bought from Warburg Investment Management.

"The board is confident that clearance will be given for a new offer to be made," said Mr Richard Heley, a director of LI's advisers, Hill Samuel. "But we'll have to see if the job of a bid makes Wedgwood do things over the next six months that could make it less attractive for us to launch another bid."

LI's three-for-two share offer, which valued Wedgwood at 310.5p, had attracted only minimal support. Analysts had expected an improved offer with a cash alternative had the OFT decision gone the other way.

per cent rise in pretax profits from £13.1 million to £19.5 million in the year to March 31. Sales increased by 13 per cent at home and 7 per cent abroad, with record figures reported from Australia, Canada and Japan.

Earnings per share rose by 44 per cent after last November's nine-for-five rights issue and the final dividend was raised from 4.5p to 7.5p to make an annual total of 10p against 7.35p.

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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet Money figures hit City for six

The May money supply numbers were released just as the Indians were hitting the winning runs against England at Lord's. It is hard to judge which caused the most dismay in the City. But when the talk is of a delay rather than abandonment of base rate cuts, it begins to look as if the Chancellor has won his battle to topple sterling M3 from its pedestal.

However, hopes, including those of the Chancellor, that European Monetary System parities for the pound will fill the void vacated by broad money targets were dealt a telling blow. Mrs Thatcher's rejection of full EMS membership, amid all talk of the grand gesture when we assume the EEC Presidency on July 1, had an air of finality - this side of the election at least - about it.

Sterling M3 rose by 3 per cent against market expectations of a 1 per cent rise on average. 1.5 per cent at most. Growth over the past 12 months has been at a Heath-Barber 19.5 per cent pace, making mockery even of an over-generous 11 to 15 per cent target range. Annualized growth over the past three months was 39 per cent, one economic record that is unlikely to find its way into ministerial speeches.

The rise in bank lending, of £1.7 billion, was rather higher than expected but not significantly so. There was underfunding of £500 million which served to convince the gilt market that a sales drive by the authorities can be expected in the coming months, hence the exaggerated fall of 1 1/2 points in long gilts.

But stealing the show, as in November last year, were the "other counterparts" - external and foreign currency transactions by the banks and net non-deposit liabilities in sterling. These can usually be safely ignored, over the past 12 months they have been contractionary by an average of £200 million a month. This is just as well, because they are impossible to predict and, to judge from the head-scratching at the Bank of England yesterday, no easier to explain.

The other counterparts boosted sterling M3 by £1.7 billion, or just under half of the 3 per cent increase. Should they be ignored, on the assumption that they will unwind over the next few months? The Bank is unwilling to rule out the possibility that they are simply picking up flows whose rightful place should perhaps have been in the bank lending figures.

Stephen Lewis at Phillips & Drew takes this view. The other counterparts were probably boosted by a change in the Bank's money market tactics last month he says. In changing the mix of paper it took from the money markets - and in particular switching to Export Credits Guarantee Department paper rather than commercial bills - the Bank was probably responsible for boosting the

other counterparts and depressing bank lending.

The sharp rise in broad money last month has, according to the Treasury, not affected its position that monetary conditions, taken as a whole, are not lax. The Bank, having seen a rapid build-up of liquidity reflected in buoyant asset prices, remains concerned about the release of that liquidity into more general inflation.

A half per cent reduction in base rates a month, which will just about be the case with a delay until next week, may be the compromise which fits both Bank caution and the Treasury's desire to keep people from paying too much attention to sterling M3.

British Gas warms up

Domestic gas users are to be offered big incentives to buy shares in British Gas when it is floated on the Stock Exchange in November. The Government is planning to introduce a voucher scheme which will entitle purchasers of British Gas shares to a discount on their gas bills.

The scheme, which will be similar to the one used to help sell British Telecom to the public in November 1984, is part of a package of outstanding privatization matters which is expected to be agreed shortly between Sir Denis Rooke, British Gas's chairman, and the accommodating Secretary of State for Energy, Peter Walker.

Subscribers to the British Telecom issue were offered vouchers worth £18 each which could be set against their quarterly telephone bills provided they remained loyal and held their British Telecom shares for at least eight months after the flotation.

Something very similar to the voucher scheme is being planned for British Gas which now looks certain to come to market with a price tag of around £5 billion. Among other issues close to resolution are the level of debt that British Gas will be floated with and the detail of the formula for controlling gas prices.

Sir Denis would plainly have liked a debt-free corporation to bring to market but that was never a realistic proposition given the scope it would have given the company for substantial acquisition making. Reluctantly he has agreed to the injection of some £2.5 billion of debt reducing the value of shares to be sold in the City from around £8 billion to £5 billion.

The other aspect of the package is the X factor in the formula for controlling gas prices. After prolonged discussions between the Treasury, the Department of Energy and Sir Denis, a formula allowing British Gas to raise prices annually by 2 per cent below the rate of inflation appears to have been agreed.

All is now set for the marketing hype proper to begin. A key start to the campaign is planned next month.

Liberty Life bid

Liberty Life, the largest life assurance company in South Africa, yesterday announced an agreed offer for Continental and Industrial Trust, a general investment trust, through its British investment subsidiary, Transatlantic Insurance Holdings.

The offer forms the latest move by the South African company in a policy of developing its financial services interests in Britain.

Transatlantic is offering nearly £150 million for Continental which has a net asset value of about £153 million.

It plans to replace the management of Continental and change the company's investment policy to one of specializing in the financial services sector.

The deal includes an offer of 863p in cash to Continental shareholders, with the choice of accepting new Transatlantic preferred ordinary shares or a combination of both. Yesterday Continental's shares stood at 840p, 23p below the cash offer price.

SIB ceiling may be £50,000

The level of compensation to individuals suffering loss through the failure or fraud of investment businesses authorized under the new self-regulatory regime is likely to be fixed at around £50,000 by the Securities and Investments Board.

This would be an increase on the £30,000 ceiling originally put forward by the board in December, but it is substantially lower than the amount for which the Government has openly declared a preference.

The Financial Services Bill, which begins its report stage in the Commons today, provides that the board, as the designated agency, must make the best practical provision for compensation, but it does not stipulate a figure.

SIB has put forward a centralized, compensation scheme, which would be compulsory for those businesses authorized directly by the SIB but optional for self-regulatory organizations, which could set up compensation schemes for their own members.

This may, however, be replaced by a mandatory compensation scheme which all self-regulatory organizations have to join.

This is because of the fear that the centralized compensation scheme - it is to be funded by levies from the participants - would be considerably weakened if members of self-regulatory organizations such as the Stock Exchange and the International Securities Regulatory Organization do not take part.

Dixons wins more time

The Takeover Panel last night effectively stopped the clock on the Dixons Group takeover bid for Woolworth Holdings, giving Dixons more time to raise its bitterly contested £1.5 billion offer.

The panel was reported to have ruled that the omission of certain technical information from Woolworth's profit forecast last Friday meant that the crucial 39th day of the takeover process did not happen on that day.

It will take place when

UK shares hit by Wall St slump

The London Stock Exchange yesterday showed once again its tendency to follow the lead set by investors in New York. Wall Street's largest ever one-day fall on Monday sent prices scurrying to mark down prices yesterday morning to deter sellers.

Although prices started to rally during a quiet morning's trading, the red ink came out again in the afternoon after disappointing British money supply figures.

Further losses on Wall Street added to the gloom. The FT 30-share index ended 15.1 points lower at 1,314.4. The index was 17.4 lower at 1,311.9 soon after the opening and gained around 8 points in listless trading before sliding.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled a record 45.75 points on Monday to 1,840.15, reflecting worries about interest rates, inflation and the effects on corporate profits of the radical reform of the US tax system comes into law.

Mr Monte Gordon of the brokerage house Dreyfus Corporation, said "Scepticism on lower interest rates and rising inflation has added a note of fear. The market has been clinging to the diminishing hope that the second half would be good. Now it's got its feet planted firmly in mid-air."

Although Monday's fall was a record in absolute terms, the percentage drop of about 2.5 per cent was far lower than the 12.8 per cent record of October 28, 1929, the day before "Black Tuesday" and the stock market collapse that initiated the Great Depression.

Investors were again in a southerly mood on Wall Street yesterday and by midday the Dow Jones average was down a further 14.4 points at 1,825.75.

On the bullion markets, precious metals surged higher reflecting concern over the rising tide of unrest in South Africa, which supplies most of the West's gold and platinum.

BM lifts stake in Benford

Blackwood Hodge, the earthmoving group, briefly emerged yesterday as the white knight savior for Benford Concrete, which has been fighting off a £19 million bid from BM Group, part of the CH Beazer housebuilding conglomerate.

But within hours of welcoming the new offer Benford found itself back on the ropes when BM raised its terms and in a stock market buying spree lifted its holding in Benford to around 29 per cent.

Last night Mr Roger Shute, the chief executive of BM, said: "We have been studying Benford since 1984 and believe we can really make it work. Quite frankly I am amazed at the move by Blackwood Hodge. The effect on their earnings a share will be astronomical."

BM picked up a block of 3.3 million shares in the market paying up to 90p a share against the 84.5p cash alternative offered by Blackwood Hodge and the 13-for-8 share swap.

Benford has a sizeable share of the UK market for site dumpers and despite fierce competition from imported plants, sales have gone up by 144 per cent between 1981 and 1985.

Blackwood Hodge said that the acquisition, if successful, would transform its own position in the lighter end of the construction market.

Metal Box dip

Pretax profits at Metal Box fell from £68.1 million to £65.8 million in the year to March 31. Turnover was down from £1.13 billion to £1.1 billion and the dividend is up from 17.5p to 19p.

Tempus, page 23

Dividend up

Electrocomponents, the distributor of electronic components, lifted its profit from £19.6 million to £25.2 million in the year to March 31. Turnover rose from £164 million to £200 million and the final dividend is 4.4p, up from 3.7p.

Tempus, page 23

Bid accepted

RFD is recommending the increased and final offer by Wyndesbury, but points out to shareholders the value of the cash alternative. Wardle has indicated that it will offer 80p in cash for each preference share.

Mann offer

The partial offer by Hambros to acquire 9.94 million Mann and Co shares has been declared unconditional as to acceptances with 59.2 per cent. Mann's own offer for Bairdson Eves received 99.6 per cent acceptances.

£11m deal

FKI Electricals is to issue 13.77 million new shares to the Lawrences, Scott & Electromotors and Laurence, Scott & Electromotors (Wolverhampton) from MS International for a total of £11 million.

90% accept

The offer by PWS International for Howard Group has been declared unconditional after acceptances for 90.05 per cent of Howard shares.

Ratners rise

Ratners has increased its offer for H Samuel's 4.7 per cent preference shares to 100p a share.

UK shares hit by Wall St slump

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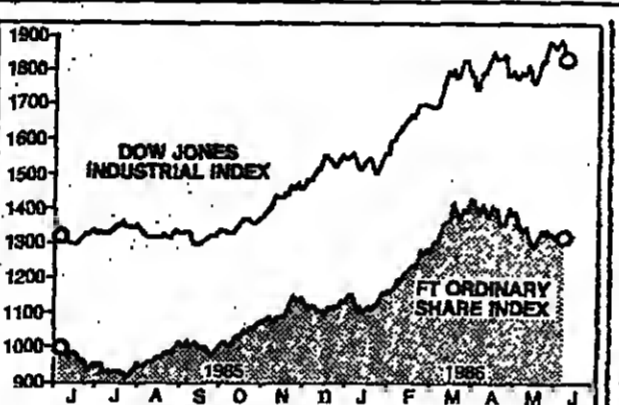
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Japan venture for C&W

Cable and Wireless has agreed with C Itoh, a large Japanese trading company, to undertake a feasibility study on entering up and operating an alternative international telecommunications service in Japan. Technical support will come from NTT, a substantial Japanese telecommunications venture.

Other members of the new service are expected to include Toyota and General Motors.

Subject to the agreement of the Japanese ministry of posts and telecommunications, the consortium would use existing facilities at the outset, and it would play a major role in the establishment of a new competitive trans-Pacific fibre optic cable link with the United States.

BL chief executive resigns

Mr David Andrews, the BL chief executive who masterminded the ill-fated attempt at a management buyout of Land-Rover, yesterday announced his resignation from all directorships at the state-controlled motors group.

His departure was widely expected following the appointment of Mr Graham Day, the former chairman of British Shipbuilders, as chairman and chief executive of the entire BL group.

Mr Andrews, the chief executive of Land-Rover Leyland, has been on leave since February to concentrate on putting together the Land-Rover bid.

Following the collapse of talks between the Government and General Motors of the United States over the sale of the Land-Rover Leyland group, the BL board decided to sell Land-Rover separately. It had regarded GM as the preferred bidder.

Mr Andrews was not available for comment yesterday, but it is understood that there has been no major rift between him and Mr Day.

The new chairman replaced Sir Auisio Bide, who ran BL as part-time and non-executive chairman with Mr Andrews and Mr Ray Horrocks, formerly chairman of BL Cars, both holding senior executive responsibility.

Mr Andrews's resignation seems certain to be followed by that of Mr Horrocks, who has made no secret of his anger at not being promoted to chairman.

He has stated publicly his belief that he was barred from the job because he opposed the Government over the recent proposed Ford takeover of Austin Rover.

He is running the Land-Rover Leyland commercial vehicle operation while Mr Day concentrates on the car division.

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Labour Party 'would take stake in collapsed banks'

A future Labour government would take an equity stake in any British bank which had to be rescued as a result of an international debt crisis, Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, said yesterday.

Outlining future Labour Party policy on aid to developing countries and international finance, Mr Hattersley said that the consequences of a big clearing bank collapse in the UK would be so catastrophic that there would be no alternative to public intervention.

He added: "If the taxpayer is to shoulder the burden of private sector debt, the contribution should be matched by the acquisition of equity in the bank concerned." This would mean votes and public representation at board level.

The Labour Party would also review the level of protection for UK investors and might consider introducing a government-run scheme to re-

pay depositors in a failed bank, similar to the American Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation system.

In a speech to the Overseas Development Institute, Mr Hattersley said the £22 billion net transfer of resources in 1985 from the Third World to the developed world meant that the poorest countries were still subsidizing the richest.

He said the leading Western governments had failed to respond to the success of Band Aid, Live Aid and Sport Aid.

On the question of international debt, a Labour Government would support:

- The conversion of the debts of poorer countries - particularly of sub-Saharan Africa - into grants.
- The rescheduling of the remaining debt of Third World countries, with an extension on the period for the repayment of the principal.
- A ceiling on interest rates

at concessionary levels for developing countries.

- An increase of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights over a five-year period to the equivalent of \$150 billion to support debt readjustment recovery and development.
- A maximum of 20 per cent for the proportion of debt repayment to export earnings for developing countries.

The Labour Party also believes that all countries, including Britain, should increase development aid to 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product and that this would create an additional two million jobs in OECD countries.

Mr Hattersley again called for co-ordinated reflation in Europe and said that the Labour Party two weeks ago began discussions with the SPD, the German Socialist Party, about such co-operation.

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Source Opal IDC 1985

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WALL STREET

New York (Agencies) - Share prices fell further in early trading yesterday as the selling which had continued from Monday - when the market suffered its biggest one-day slump in history - gathered momentum.

The market's failure to penetrate Monday's closing level in an attempted rally and scattered sell programmes also led to bearishness.

The Dow Jones industrial average slipped by a further 9.28 points to 1,830.87. On Monday, it slumped by 45.75 points to 1,840.15.

The number of stocks falling outnumbered rising ones by three to one on 39 million shares traded.

The market's weakness was again broad-based, as in Monday's drop. Once more, shares ignored the initial strength of the bond market.

John Blair rose by 1 to 192. Macfadden has raised its bid.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists various stocks and their prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Table with columns: Market rates, Date, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Sterling finished an active session yesterday widely higher in terms of the dollar. It closed with a gain of 2 cents at 1.5185 and its effective exchange rate index showed an improvement of 0.5 to 75.9.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES. Table with columns: Country, Rate.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Price, Change. Lists various commodities like sugar, coffee, oil, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns: Instrument, Rate, Change. Lists money market instruments like Treasury bills, Euro money deposits, etc.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table with columns: Instrument, Rate, Change. Lists Euro money deposit rates.

GOLD

Table with columns: Instrument, Price, Change. Lists gold prices.

ECGD

Table with columns: Instrument, Rate, Change. Lists ECGD rates.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Change. Lists other sterling rates.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Instrument, Price, Change. Lists London financial futures.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Price, Change, Ytd. Lists various investment trusts.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Price, Change, Ytd. Lists financial trusts.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table with columns: Trust Name, Bid, Offer, Change, Ytd. Lists numerous unit trusts.

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TEMPUS

Exxon muscles in on London exchange

When the biggest oil company in the world decides that the time has come to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange, there is a nagging feeling that it is the City which has arrived rather than Exxon.

The impression is reinforced when chairman Clifton C Garvin, on being asked what were the advantages of a London listing, replied that he "really did not have a good answer for that."

Certainly there is a perception that with New York and Tokyo, London is one of three pivotal financial centres, but Exxon is not seeking a Tokyo listing.

Then there is the advantage of round-the-clock dealing. But Exxon can already be dealt in around the world for most of the 24 hours there are in a day.

The big US brokers will make markets in net prices in London and other financial centres until the floor in New York opens at 2.30 in the afternoon British time.

Everything may change after the big bang, but right now, it tends to be rather a dull market for US shares in London, whether they have a listing or not.

Most fund managers prefer to wait until New York opens, rather than trade in the net shares market. This is unlikely to change for as long as the primary market remains in New York.

A more concrete advantage is that in a takeover of a British company, it may be more acceptable to be able to offer UK paper.

Further, the company will be better understood by the financial community once its British brokers start producing research on it.

Exxon will also have a higher profile among the people they do business with.

It seems unlikely that it will make much difference to the number of British shareholders, and Exxon will never know anyway as its stock is held in bearer form and there is no register of shareholders.

As an investment, Exxon ranks as being of the highest quality. It is so flush with surplus funds that it has been able to spend \$7 billion (£4.6 billion) buying in 17 per cent

of its shares since 1983. The average price was \$45 per share, not a bad investment considering the present price is \$59.

At the current yield of 6 per cent, Exxon is yielding less than BP (8.2 per cent) and Shell (7.1 per cent). It is also on a higher p/e ratio than either of the major British oil companies.

So there is no need to rush out and buy right away.

Electrocomponents

Electrocomponents has come through a difficult patch in fine shape. Tough competition, barely denied margins last year and prospects are good.

The main distribution business supplying own label components by mail order had a better second half than expected, so that the company made £35.2 million before tax in the year to March 31, up from £29.6 million.

The result reflected benefits from the move to Weldon, in the Corby enterprise zone in Northamptonshire, where Electrocomponents is enjoying a rent-free period until 1991.

The other businesses were slightly disappointing, with Electroplan, the distributor of measuring instruments, and Radio Resistor both performing below best.

The newly acquired American business contributed very little but this year there should be a full year's contribution from both it and Retron, the German company acquired in November.

There was a cash outflow of £4 million last year after spending £11 million on acquisitions. At the year-end there was net debt of £1.5 million, and the company says it plans further American acquisitions.

The company looks on target for £39 million this year, making a p/e ratio of 15 with the shares at 38 1/2p. That looks about right.

Metal Box

Metal Box is putting well-established accounting rules to the test.

Yesterday it announced profits of £65.8 million before tax, down from £68.1 million. The figures were helped to the

time of £800,000 by a switch in accounting from year-end to average exchange rates and a £3.7 million reduction in pension contributions.

Most controversially Metal Box charged \$42.8 million reorganization costs below the line in a £26.9 million extraordinary item which benefited from a profit on the sale on an American can manufacturer.

In another group these reorganization costs might well have been charged above the line, but presumably Metal Box was anxious to avoid cutting profits and earnings.

Of the £42.8 million, £12.2 million relates to the relocation and reduction in size of the head office, £17.8 million to redundancies in general packaging and £12.8 million to redundancies in food, central heating and engineering.

None of these businesses was discontinued.

Price Waterhouse, the auditor, has not qualified the accounts, but whether it would take such a relaxed attitude to Metal Box's accounting practices in the future remains to be seen.

A revised version of the relevant accounting standard is at the printers and this is expected to make clear that only those reorganization costs relating to discontinued businesses can go below the line. If this had applied to Metal Box last year, it would have had to charge all the reorganization costs against pretax profits.

There was an element of clearing the decks last year's figures.

There were various encouraging pointers including a rise in royalty and licensing income from £5.1 million to £8.2 million and a promised turnaround in Italy which last year lost £7 million.

The cheque printing companies in America acquired a year ago should make a good contribution and the company is hopeful about its joint venture with Alcoa to develop and make a new generation of plastic food packaging in America.

Yesterday the market was more impressed with these prospects than the accounting devices used to reported results and the shares rose 50p to 80 1/2p. At that level they look fully valued.

UK and France unite in trade row

Paris (Reuters) - British and French foreign ministers said yesterday they were agreed on the need for a firm and united EEC response to the community's dispute with the United States over farm exports.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's Foreign Secretary, and M Jean-Bernard Raimond, the French foreign minister, said after talks they were agreed on the need for a specific list of countermeasures to be taken if the US goes ahead with threatened quotas on EEC products such as wine, beer and chocolates on July 1.

France is trying to persuade its partners to take a tougher line on the US quotas, which Washington says are retaliation for the loss of agricultural markets in Spain and Portugal, which joined the EEC this year.

M Raimond said there was no difference of substance between the British and French positions and their talks had brought them closer on questions of procedure.

£90m floating notes offer

Midland International Financial Services BV, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, is offering DM300 million (£90 million) of 12-year floating rate notes paying 1/16 point over three-month London interbank offered rate at a par issue price, the lead manager, Trinkhaus & Burkhart, said.

The floating rate notes, callable after five years at par, are guaranteed on a subordinated basis by Midland Bank. Commissions total 0.20 point, comprising 0.08 point as a selling concession and 0.12 point for underwriting and management combined.

The lead manager quoted the bonds as trading above par.

Shares tumble as hopes fade of early rate cut

By Michael Clark

The worst-ever, one-day performance overnight on Wall Street combined with some disappointing British money supply figures to knock the stuffing out of the London stock market yesterday.

Government securities bore the brunt of the selling as hopes of an early cut in bank base rates, by half a point to

closed 15.1 down at 1,314.4. The loss on the broader-based FT-SE 100 was extended to 18.2 at 1,586.4.

Those stocks with an international flavour lost ground. ICI fell 1 1/2 to 916p. Glaxo 13p to £10.20 and Cadbury Schweppes 6p to 170p. Even Jaguar lost an early lead, to finish unchanged at 508p, after 51 1/2p.

FH Tomkins slipped 4p to 306p, still looking to win control of Pegler-Hatterley, 30p cheaper at 614p. Mr Greg Hutchins, the chairman of Tomkins, has been visiting various institutions with his broker, Cazenove, hoping to convince them of his cause.

Delta Group lost another 10p to 222p, after a downgrading of profits by the broker, de Zoete & Bevan, from £58 million to £54 million. The downgrading also booted over into the rival DMJ, 2p lighter at 180p.

But reports that a line of about 100 million ordinary shares in Hanson Trust were doing the rounds following the acquisition of Imperial Group turned out to be wide of the

mark. The price slipped 4p to 170p.

Other sources are now subscribing to The Times' view that the full-year figures from Hazlewood Foods next Monday should make interesting reading. Brokers like de Zoete & Bevan, which has been forecasting pretax profits of at least £10 million - compared with £6.1 million last time - could be pleasantly surprised.

There is even talk now of a possible share split and further good news. For 1987, the market is looking for a final figure of about £16 million. The shares held steady at 84 1/2p, but some dealers are talking them as high as £10.

Fitch & Co, the design consultant, continued to respond to the news that it has been awarded the contract of the "new corporate design formula" for the Debenhams stores group, including its flagship in Oxford Street.

Work has already been started and should be completed in the New Year at a cost of some £10 million. That should provide Fitch's profits with a substantial boost. Fitch

spurred 15p to 430p, after 440p.

Shares of Whatman Reeve Angel, the laboratory equipment supplier, were suspended at 27 1/2p, awaiting details of the proposed tender offer to buy 400,000 of its own shares (1.9 per cent). Mr Andrew Smithers, the chairman, says the group is currently generat-

ing more cash than it needs and the most efficient way of returning some of it to shareholders is by way of a tender offer.

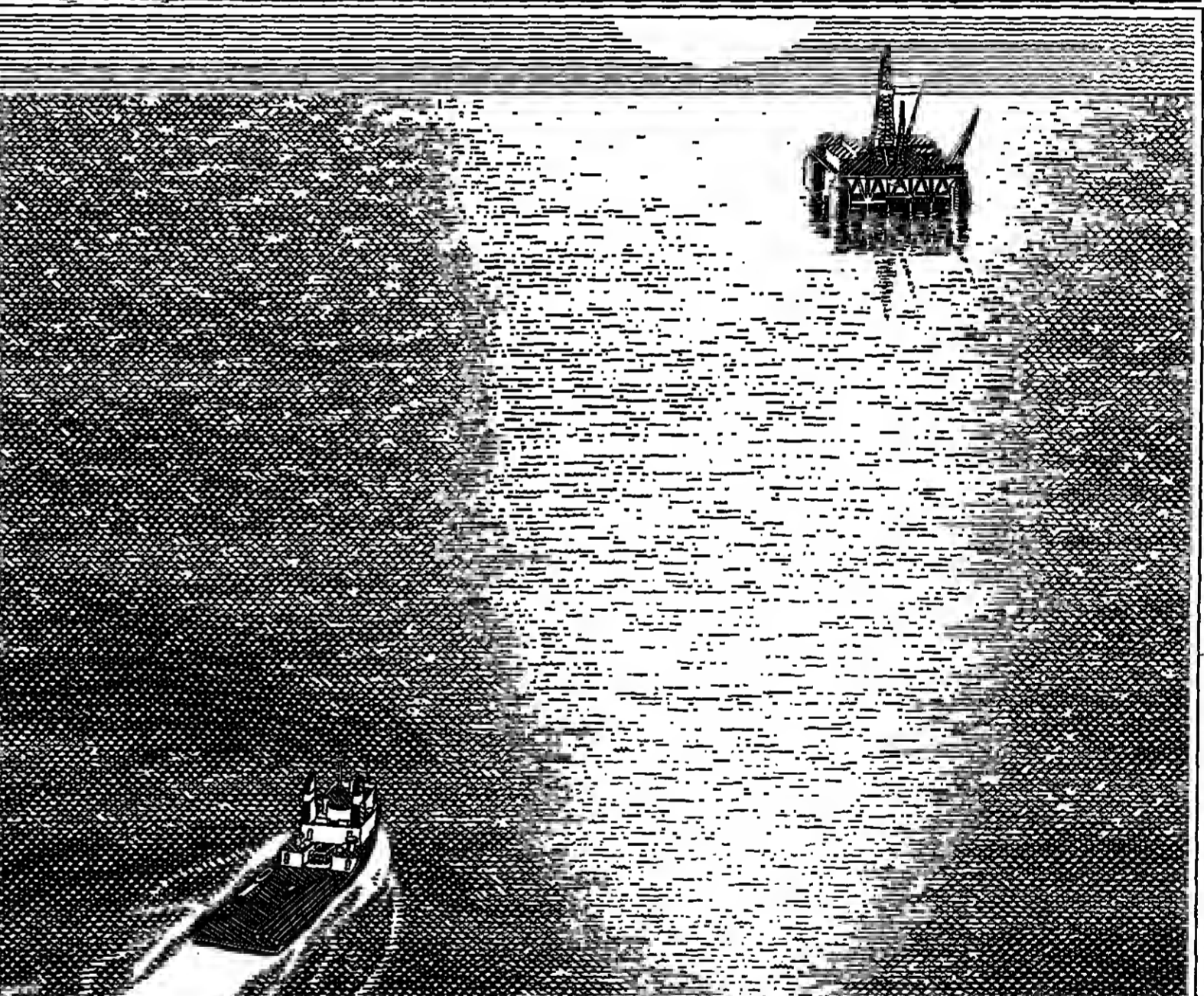
The group is offering 320p a share and all offers of up to 27 1/2p a share had to be scaled down.

The £62 million rights issue from Costain, the construction group, was worse than originally feared and the price tumbled 20p to 540p.

Profit-taking clipped another 1p off British Benzol, at 89p, despite the full-year figures on Monday showing pretax profits topping £1 million, against just £200,000 for the previous year. Quilter Goodison, the broker, is forecasting pretax profits of at least £3 million for the current year and the group itself is ready to hit the acquisition trail.

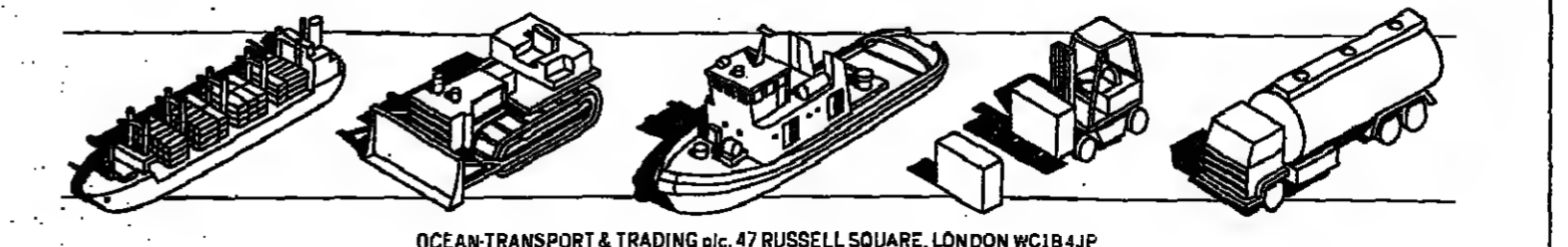
Grand Metropolitan, the brewery, leisure and hotels group, lost another 7p to 393p.

Table with columns: RECENT ISSUES, EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES. Lists various stocks and their prices.



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Lease of life for Wah Kwong

Hoog Kong (AP-Dow Jones) - Citibank NA, a subsidiary of the US bank, has signed a 90-day extension of a critical operating scheme for Hoog Kong's troubled Wah Kwong shipping group - 10 days after the original pact expired.

of the Wah Kwong group. Citibank has exposure to that ship - the Shannoo Venture - and had insisted that it be excluded from a permanent restructuring and that the bank be permitted to assume control of the ship as soon as the interim operating scheme expires.

Wah Kwong is using the time provided by the interim plans to permit its financial advisers, Amex Asia, to draw up a permanent restructuring for the group, which has debts of more than US\$850 million (£561 million).

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Lloyd's chief predicts PCW case settlement

By Lawrence Lever

A settlement of the PCW case, in which Lloyd's names face losses of up to £200 million, would be achieved by the end of this year, Mr Alan Lord, Lloyd's deputy chairman and chief executive, predicted yesterday.

Mr Lord said that the idea of the PCW names pursuing legal action in the United States this summer appeared to "have dropped out of sight." Negotiations for a settlement of the PCW affair were still at a preliminary stage, and would not be easy.

However, he expected that there would be a negotiated settlement — "hopefully before the end of this year."

Mr Lord denied reports that the council of Lloyd's was anxious about the results of the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into Unimar — the offshore company into which Mr Peter Cameron-Webb and Mr Peter Dixon are alleged to have siphoned

names' money — should not be published.

He said that, if the DTI wanted to publish the report, Lloyd's would welcome it. The report might contain things that Lloyd's own inquiries had not unearthed, and these might require action to be taken in the interests of Lloyd's own members.

Two parliamentary questions about the publication of the DTI report were tabled yesterday by Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shore-ditch. He will ask whether the Government will publish the report and what action it proposes to take.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said yesterday that there would be a written response to the questions by the end of this week at the earliest.

Mr Lord did not think that the PCW negotiations would mean that the accounts of Lloyd's would need to be qualified, although he refused

to be drawn further on this.

The standstill agreement on litigation over the PCW affair has been extended from March to the end of September in the hope that a settlement can be reached.

Mr Lord also revealed yesterday details of underwriting agents registered by the committee of Lloyd's under the provisions of the underwriting agents by-law, introduced after the passing of the Lloyd's Act 1982 and the requirement that broker ownership of managing agents should be separated.

By the May 31 deadline 162 underwriting agents had been registered. Mr Lord estimated that the final number would be around 240 out of about 338 potential agents.

Agents not registered by May 31 are required to inform the names whom they represent that they will not be able to act for them unless registration is completed by July 22, 1987.

M6 store to raise £5.5m

By Cliff Feltham

Customers regularly clock up 100 miles of motorway driving to shop at the M6 Cash and Carry wholesalers which this month makes its stock market debut with a value of more than £3 million.

Originally a family business — with three West Midlands depots all within easy reach of the M6 at Haydock, Crews and Brierley Hill — it passed into the almost complete ownership of J Rothschild Holdings in the early 1980s. Rothschild will be reducing its stake to around 30 per cent and raising about £5.5 million.

Profits have shown steady growth last year totalling £670,000 on turnover of nearly £60 million. There is no profit forecast for the current year.

The shares are coming to the Unlisted Securities Market through an issue by Barclays Merchant Bank and Kitcat and Aitken, the stockbrokers.

Costain rights call for £62.4m

By Clare Dobie

Costain Group drew attention yesterday to the growing capital requirements of construction companies by launching a £62.4 million rights issue. Shareholders are being offered one share at 465p for every five they already own.

Mr Terrel Wyatt, the chairman, said: "The rights issue will give us further headroom for expansion."

The company was increasingly involved as both investor and builder in construction projects. The Channel Tunnel project would absorb less than £10 million and the Dartford crossing over the Thames in London would require even less capital, he said.

A contract to build the Northern Ireland coal-fired power station, for which Costain is one of three potential bidders in partnership with Foster Wheeler, would, however, require Costain to put up substantial amounts of money. The power station might cost £400 million to build.

In America, Costain intends to spend up to \$30 million (£20 million) on developing Nicor Mineral Ventures, a small company which it recently agreed to buy for \$6 million. Nicor mines silica, gold and talc.

The ratio of net debt to shareholders' funds was 12 per cent at December 31. Current spending plans would take that ratio to 35 per cent by the next year-end.

The company has invested £216 million since 1979 on diversifying into coal mining, housebuilding, property development and specialist engineering.

The shares fell 28p to 540p on the news.

Bond close to victory at Hampton

By Michael Prest

Metals Exploration, the Australian mining company controlled by Mr Alan Bond, appeared close yesterday to taking control of Hampton Gold Mining Areas. It raised its bid for the natural resources and engineering group from 130p to 150p a share and announced that it held, or had acceptances for, 31.5 per cent of Hampton.

On Monday, Hampton advised shareholders to reject the Metals Exploration bid and tried to bolster its defences by revaluing its assets to 205p a share and reporting a sharp increase in earnings for the second half of the year to the end of March.

Mr George Livingstone-Learnmouth, Hampton's managing director, attacked Mr Bond for being opportunistic.

But, yesterday, sources close to Metals Exploration argued that the revaluations of Hampton's gold, oil, nickel and coal properties were based on optimistic assumptions about raw material prices and discount rates.

The sources also pointed out that Hampton's pre-tax profits of £2.38 million were little more than in 1985 and that a £10 million extraordinary charge caused by the collapse of oil prices left Hampton, which is being advised by Samuel Mootag, unable to pay a final dividend.

Mr Livingstone-Learnmouth said on Monday, however, that the company would try to pay a special interim dividend.

Metals Exploration, which is being advised by Morgan Grenfell, yesterday bought just under 10 per cent of Hampton in the market. It formerly the investment management division of Samuel Mootag, an undertaking to sell 9.4 per cent to Metals Exploration.

RFD agrees £29m Wardle offer

By Richard Lander

RFD Group, the mini-conglomerate with interests ranging from specialist textiles to defence and safety products, has finally agreed to a takeover bid from Wardle Stores, the plastic sheeting manufacturer.

After fiercely opposing Wardle's initial offer and then advising acceptance of a rival bid from a white knight in the shape of the Scapa Group, the technical products company, RFD yesterday recommended Wardle's offer.

Wardle Stores raised £29 million offer.

However, the tone of the RFD acceptance indicated lingering unhappiness with the Wardle offer, and the company is thought to be talking to another party to a last-minute alternative to escape Wardle.

Wardle's managing director, Mr Brian Taylor, has said he is interested only in RFD's defence and safety sides, and that he will consider selling the textiles division to Scapa or other parties.

Scapa, on the other hand, is looking to retain the textiles side and dispose of the other divisions.

With management buyouts seen as possibilities by both suitors, the RFD board recommendations have been made by the company's non-executive directors.

Scapa's managing director, Mr Bill Goodall, said yesterday that his company was examining all its options.

Wardle has offered a 16-for-25 share swap which values RFD shares at 203p, 2p lower than yesterday's market price.

However, RFD's acceptance yesterday suggested shareholders might be better off taking the 205p cash alternative which, it said, had more certain value.

In either case shareholders will get the final RFD dividend, which is being raised from 2.71p to 4p. Scapa's paper offer is worth 194p with a cash alternative of 195p.

Devenish to call time on dozens of tenants

By Our City Staff

Mr Michael Cannon, the new head of the J A Devenish chain of more than 300 public houses, is preparing to give dozens of tenants their marching orders.

He believes that many are paying far too little for their tenancies, and he wants to bring in his own managers.

Mr Cannon has been planning the shake-up since he reversed his 100 Leisure business into the bigger Devenish group.

The move will obviously make Mr Cannon unpopular with many tenants.

Mr Cannon is also likely to upset Whitbread, the brewing group, whose investment arm backed his merger and still owns 15 per cent of the enlarged group.

Mr Cannon says that terms for buying Whitbread beer are not good enough. He will this week stop selling Whitbread-supplied lagers in 30 of the Devenish-managed public houses.

He is also stepping up the pace by launching four new Devenish beers, two directly angled at the younger market — Great British Heavy and Wessex Stud Bitter.

The merged company yesterday announced first half profits of £1.2 million, an increase of 36 per cent, on turnover of £15.2 million.

Nippon comes to UK

communications monopoly before it was privatized to April last year, has decided to open the subsidiaries in an attempt to effectively deal with dollar-based equipment purchases overseas, company officials said.

The company bought 36.9 billion yen (£147 million) worth of equipment from other countries in fiscal 1985 ended last March 31, and the volume is expected to continue to rise in the future.

NTT, a government-run

St Piran inquiry urged

Two companies formerly controlled by Mr James Raper, the financier, had been stripped of their assets and required investigation, a High Court judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Hoffmann made compulsory winding-up orders against St Piran and Gasco Investments UK, on petitions brought on their behalf by Mr Ian Watt, who was appointed Receiver last December.

Mr Simon Mortimore, counsel for the Receiver, told the judge that the petitions were based on insolvency "and the fact that during the course of last year all the assets were removed out of St Piran."

He said the only director was Mr Raper, who was out of the High Court's jurisdiction.

The judge said he was satisfied that the companies had been stripped of all their assets.

"St Piran seems to be unable to pay its debts, and Gasco has no assets and is completely defunct."

"To put it at its lowest, there are matters which require to be investigated as to the circumstances in which these assets were disposed of."

ENI 'to stay in the black'

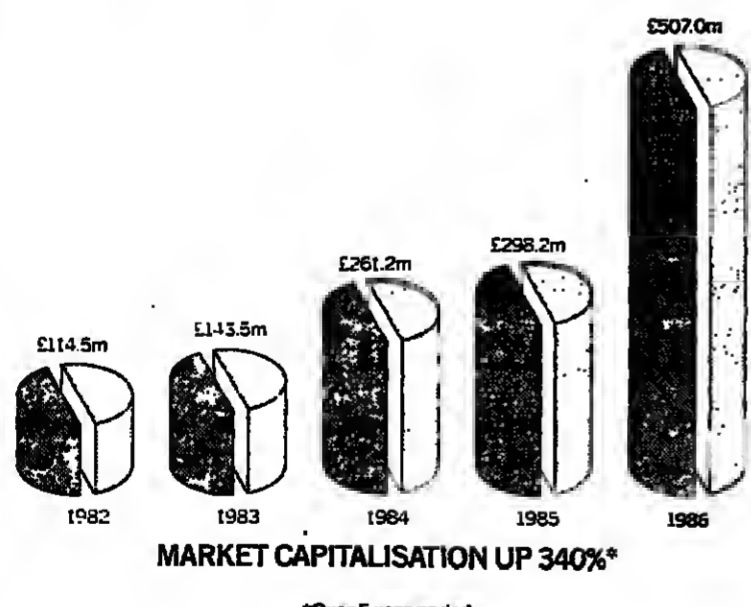
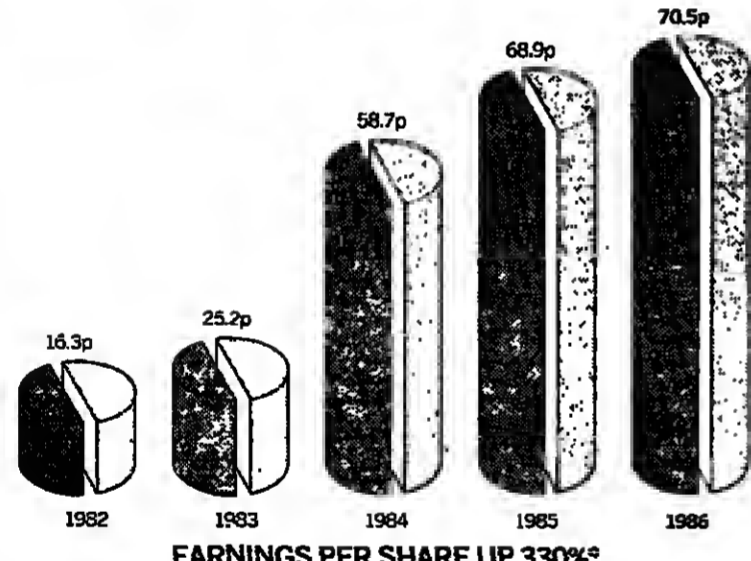
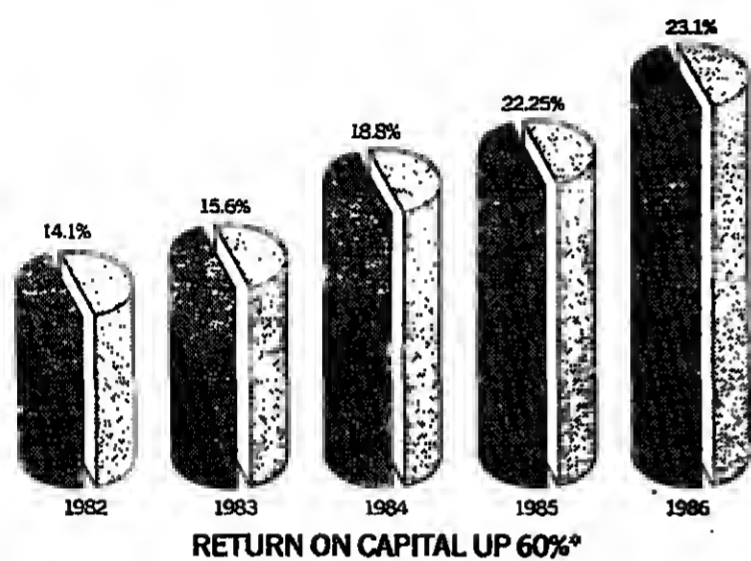
Rome (AP-Dow Jones) — Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), Italy's diversified state oil company, expects to remain in the black despite the volatility in oil markets as a three-year "housecleaning" programme continues to produce results.

Senior officials now claim the company has finally recovered from the muddled and depressing period it endured in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The company has reduced its presence in loss-making coal and nuclear energy and has concentrated on its core oil and gas business.

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Trading profit	85.4	91.9
Interest (net)	(19.6)	(23.8)
Profit before taxation	65.8	68.1
Net borrowings	45.5	33.0
Earnings per £1 stock unit	70.5p	68.9p
Dividend-net	19.0p	17.25p
Return on capital employed	23.1%	22.5%

Abridged figures from the 1986 Annual Report

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مكتبة

Fears grow that Mexico may stop debt payments

Mexico City (Reuters) — Tuesday's street violence and speculation is mounting that Mexico may stop repaying its huge foreign debt as its economic condition worsens, pushing the peso still lower against the dollar.

Almost exactly four years ago, falling oil prices and rising interest rates forced Mexico to detonate the so-called Latin American debt bomb by suspending interest payments on the \$80 billion (£53 billion) it owed overseas creditors.

Now with the debt nearly \$100 billion and oil prices again well below their usual levels, fears are growing that the country will once again stop paying, a move which would throw world financial markets into disarray and possibly set a train of similar moves by other Latin American debtors.

In the past week the free-market peso has slumped to around 730 to the dollar from just 520, unsettled by

whereas it was simple 'can't pay' back in 1982," said one European banker.

While the authorities remain vague on whether President de la Madrid will try to regain political popularity by declaring a moratorium, rumours fly about various options being examined.

Most bankers discount a simple payments halt. The United States would strongly oppose such a measure and would press its banks — to which about one third of the money is owed — to come up with either fresh money or a compromise accord.

A possible solution might be a negotiated payments pause to give the country breathing space, perhaps through allowing repayment in pesos, which would allow Mexico to keep its precious dollars and the banks to continue classifying their loans as "performing" or interest-earning.

Another might be the inclusion in any deal of more exotic devices such as the banks agreeing to accept shares in state-owned companies in lieu of hard cash — anathema to the bankers — or taking bonds linked to the value of a barrel of oil.

More likely, they say, is that agreement will finally be reached with the International Monetary Fund, allowing serious talks to go ahead with the banks on lightening the debt load through easier payment terms.

Finance Ministry spokesmen dismiss the theories as rumours but offer no concrete information.

Neither has the Central Bank made any comment on the steep fall of the free-rate peso beyond saying the more important government-controlled rate, which accounts for 80 per cent of foreign exchange dealings, has kept calm, losing only 1.3 pesos yesterday to 547 to the dollar.

APPOINTMENTS Craddock named as Cartier director

Cartier: Mr Aleck Craddock has joined the board. Kenady Brooks: Mr Nick Newland has become group director of finance. American Medical International: Mr Geese E Bartleson has been made executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

Conter Group: Mr W C Robinson has been named as group managing director. Mr R T Parmer has become managing director of Conder Southern. Mr A E Simpson



Sir James Cleminson becomes a director with responsibility for the IEI companies.

MRB Group: Mr Tim Bowles is made group managing director.

Eastern Counties Newspapers Group: Sir James Cleminson has been appointed a non-executive director. He is also to become chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Cooper Estates: Mrs Elizabeth Roberts has been made the director of the US property division and Mr Richard Maylam director of the UK property division.

Sasco: Mr Jim Cullumaine has been promoted to sales director.

Japan and Germany in firing line over growth

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Japan and West Germany look set to face an increasingly difficult time convincing the rest of the world that they are doing enough to foster growth.

Yesterday, it was announced in Tokyo that Japan had a record trade surplus of \$7.53 billion (£5.01 billion), more than double the surplus a year earlier.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, told an audience of Japanese businessmen that the trade surplus must be reduced or the yen will be forced higher.

"The present imbalances are politically and economically unsustainable," he said.

West Germany announced a 1 per cent fall in gross national product in the first quarter yesterday. GNP was only 1.6 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The two sets of figures are part of the same story. Japan is failing to achieve strong enough growth in domestic demand to reduce the trade surplus.

Similarly Germany, which is adopting a highly cautious approach to fiscal and monetary policy, despite the fact that on a 12-month basis prices are falling, is growing too slowly to make major inroads into unemployment or drag in larger quantities of imports.

The Japanese trade figures are a major headache for the Tokyo government, which faces an election test in a month's time. The May surplus of \$7.53 billion compared with the previous record of \$6.82 billion in April.

Exports in dollar terms rose by a strong 24 per cent to \$17.889 billion, while imports fell by 6.3 per cent to \$10.357 billion.

Japan has now posted record trade surpluses for three successive months and faces the prospect of a major

protectionist push in the US Congress in the autumn.

Its trade surplus with the United States last month was \$4,058 billion, the third biggest on record. However, one crumb of comfort for Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, was that imports from the United States were a record \$2.874 billion, 25.6 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Mr Nakasone has launched a series of drives to increase awareness of imported goods among Japanese consumers, the latest of which was in April.

Even so, Japan's exports to the United States were 2 1/2

Car exports to the EEC were up by a dramatic 167%

times her imports from there, at \$6.931 billion.

Officials in Tokyo suggest that trade figures in dollar terms are misleading because of the yen's sharp correction against the dollar — it has risen by more than 50 per cent — in the past year.

But in key sensitive areas of trade, exports remain strong in dollar and yen terms and in volume.

Car exports to the US last month were 31.6 per cent up on a year earlier, bus and truck exports rose by 52.2 per cent. Exports of television sets rose by 49 per cent, compared with May 1985, and computer sales increased by 36.1 per cent.

The strength of Japanese exports is not confined to the US market.

Last month, car exports to the EEC totalled \$423.7 million, a dramatic 167.3 per cent up on a year earlier. Truck and bus exports rose by an only slightly less surprising 119.2 per cent, to \$58.9 million.

The other side of the coin on the yen's rise and the

Iran speeds up refinery building

Tokyo (AP-Dow Jones) — Iran is moving ahead with plans to expand its domestic refining capacity by 400,000 barrels a day despite mounting concern that it faces a chronic hard currency shortage.

Japanese, South Korean and European companies have been invited to bid for a \$1.5 billion construction contract for a refinery at Bandar Abbas, a Gulf port.

Several of the bidding companies said that the Iranians wanted the project completed by 1989 — the same target date as that for the completion of a refinery at Arak, near Tehran.

The plants are each designed to add 200,000 barrels a day to Iran's 700,000 barrels-a-day refining capacity, which is about 200,000 barrels-a-day short of self-sufficiency.

The new refineries would add between \$2.5 billion (£1.66 billion) and \$3 billion to the country's foreign trade bill, making some potential contractors wary of Iran's ability to follow through its ambitious plans.

Unconfirmed reports that Iran has been seeking to borrow several billion dollars from Japanese banks in exchange for crude oil have added to apprehensions among Iran's trade partners, that the country is heading for a cash crisis.

Iran missed the first deadline on the repayment in February of 104 billion yen (about \$400 million), borrowed to finance a petrochemical complex, and banking sources say that the Iranians have not yet indicated when they intend to begin.

"Their reliability is not so clear," said an official at a Japanese trading company which is considering bidding on the Bandar Abbas project.

Another trading source official said that Iran seemed intent on speeding up the construction of both plants, but that they might eventually choose to complete only one.

"My personal assumption is that they will go ahead with just one," he added.

To minimize the required foreign borrowing, Iran originally planned to build the Arak refinery with its own engineers, importing only key units which it could not easily build at home.

Experts who visited Iran recently said that parts procurement had begun but that

construction had yet to start. One said that the state oil company appeared to be torn over whether to invite in more foreign help.

The Iranians have asked bidders on the Bandar Abbas plant to accept payment in crude oil or petroleum products. "Their first choice is to have us agree to a (refined) products counter purchase," said one trading house official.

Alternatively, repayments could be made partly in products and partly in crude, he said. The Iranians consider an exchange involving only crude a last choice.

Mitsui and Co., which sold Iran the as-yet uncompleted and unpaid petrochemical plant, is one of 10 companies expected to bid on the Bandar Abbas project.



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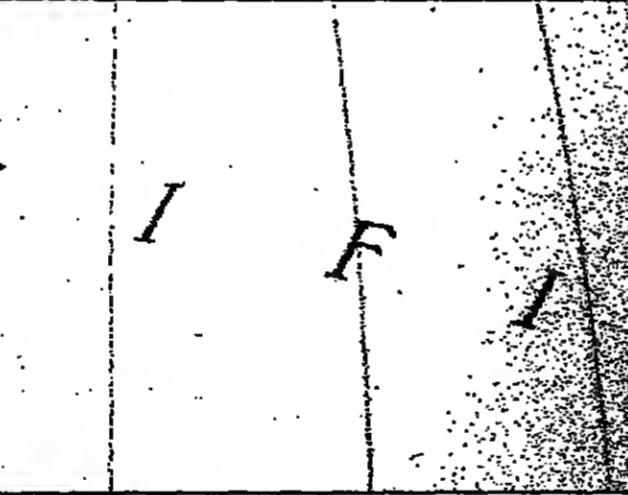
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COMPANY NEWS

- **STEAUA ROMANA:** The company has closed its New York office as part of a cost-cutting exercise. Its US operations now being conducted from the Dallas, Texas, office.
- **STEWART ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT COMPANY:** Dividend for the year to March 31, 1986, unchanged at 0.4p (same), payable on July 11. Shareholders' funds £7.59 million (£7.84 million). Pretax income £77,000 (£70,000). Loss per share 0.32p (0.24p). Shareholders' funds per share 48.1p (49.7p).
- **BARTON GROUP** (subsidiary of Caparo Group): Dividend for 1985 8.3p (4.14p). Turnover £47.7 million (£49.0 million). Pretax profit £1.85 million (£1.90 million). Earnings per share 10.03p (2.77p). The board explains that the profit improvement reflects increased efficiency and some cost-cutting. Further profit growth is expected in 1986.
- **CONTINUOUS STATIONERY:** Year to March 31, 1986. Total dividend 0.9p (1.75p). Turnover £4.05 million (£3.20 million). Pretax loss £132,000 (£1,000). Loss per share 1.85p (0.59p). The board reports that, in spite of the losses of the last two years, the balance sheet remains sound.
- **STRATA INVESTMENTS:** No interim dividend for the year to Oct. 31, 1986, but the board expects to pay a final. Pretax revenue for the period to April 30, £284,245. In the seven months since the company was launched, the money raised has been invested in small companies worldwide.
- **HOLDEN HYDROMAN:** A final dividend of 2.275p making 3.25p (3.25p) has been announced for the year to March 31. With figures in £000, turnover rose to 3,817 (3,850) and pretax profit to 322 (304).
- **STANDARD FIREWORKS:** An interim dividend (in lieu of a final) of 3.8p has been announced for the year to March 31. Consolidated operating profit slipped to £978,592 (£1,255,167) and consolidated profits after tax to £648,140 (£746,109).
- **PROPERTY HOLDINGS AND INVESTMENT:** Dividend 2.95p (2.5p). Renis received for the year to March 31 (£000): 8,823 (7,975); property outgoings 643 (842); net income from properties 8,180 (7,133); other income 346 (593); net rental and other income 8,526 (7,726); administration expenses 825 (596); interest payments 1,828 (1,363); profit on activities before tax 5,673 (5,767); tax 1,235 (2,432); earnings per share 5.86p (5.92p) before loan stock converted 171p (160p); after loan stock converted (fully diluted) 158p (147p); shareholders' funds per share before dividends (fully diluted) 5p (5.6p). Properties revalued as at March 31 totalled £161 million (£140.7 million).
- **NEW AUSTRALIA INVESTMENT TRUST:** Valid acceptances of the offer on behalf of Mosskirk have been received in respect of 1,334,255 New Australia ordinary shares (26.68 per cent). Mosskirk, which immediately before the offer period held 2,089,899 ordinary shares (41.79 per cent), has not acquired or agreed to acquire any ordinary shares of New Australia during the offer period other than pursuant to the offer, which is now unconditional.
- **WESTFIELD MINERALS:** The company is planning to raise Can\$5 million via a private placement and a rights issue. Agreement provides an option which would net a further Can\$3 million if all shares are taken up.
- **CENTREWAY TRUST:** Agreement has been reached for the acquisition from Mr A P Alderton of Soundcast, which has net assets of £27,800, mainly in cash. Centreway will issue to Mr Alderton 66,198 ordinary shares. He will then own 286,198 ordinaries (7.5 per cent of the enlarged capital).
- **HOPKINSONS HOLDINGS:** Mr Roger Bentley, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the figures for the first quarter of 1986 show a significant improvement on the corresponding period last year — itself a group record.
- **LOPEX:** The offer for sale attracted 1,437 applications for 1.59 million ordinary shares (50.8 per cent) and these will be satisfied in full. Of the applications, 220 were from preferential staff applicants for 314,524 shares — the maximum available to preferential applicants. The balance will be taken up by the underwriters.
- **FIRST SECURITY GROUP:** The formal document dealing with the offer from the British Car Auction Group has been posted. It incorporates a letter from the chairman of First Security, advising shareholders not to accept the offer.
- **CHARTER CONSOLIDATED:** Notice of a Shareholders' meeting, a subsidiary of Baker International, a subsidiary of Anderson Strathclyde Ian offshoot of Charter, has agreed in principle to sell the assets of its mining machinery division to Baker Mining Equipment, a subsidiary of Baker International. The proceeds will enable National Mine to reduce long-term debt.
- **EMPIRE STORES (BRADFORD):** The chairman told the annual meeting that despite the weather, all sections of the spring/summer catalogue were doing well. After the first four periods of this year sales were 13 per cent up on last year and the company was on target to achieve the increased level of profits planned.
- **HOME COUNTIES NEWSPAPERS HOLDINGS:** The chairman said at the annual meeting that the group's newspapers continued to perform satisfactorily and the effects of VAT on advertisement have been marginal.
- **PROPERTY AND REVERSIONARY INVESTMENT:** Final dividend 3p, making 4.5p (4.1p); net rental income for the year to March 31 (£000) 3,845 (3,227); pretax profit 2,384 (2,581); tax 198 (190); minorities debt nil (11); extraordinary credit 68 (420); 292p (272p); earnings per share 5.9p (8p). Following a revaluation including new acquisitions totalling £6 million, the value of group property has increased by 16 per cent.

Law Report June 11 1986

Solicitor at risk cannot open

Bahai v Rashidian and Another (No 2)
Before Mr Justice Drake
[Judgment given June 10]
Order 62, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court which deal with the personal liability of a solicitor for costs, did not confer upon him the right of compulsion to open an application for costs against him by showing cause why the order should not be made.

Mr Justice Drake so held in the Queen's Bench Division in ruling on a preliminary point refusing an application by a solicitor against whom an order was being sought under Order 62, rule 8, to open the application for costs.

In the main action on December 12, 1984, Mr Justice Drake gave judgment for the defendants. They then became the claimants by making an application, which was adjourned, that the solicitor for the plaintiffs, Mr Michael E. Harris, should be made personally liable for the costs incurred.

Following that adjournment, an application was made on behalf of Mr Harris that the issue should be heard by some other judge so as to ensure a fair hearing. The Court of Appeal refused that application holding that it was the duty of the trial judge to adjudicate on the

matter (*The Times* October 9, 1985; [1985] 1 WLR 1337).

Mr Colin Brodie, QC, Mr Alan Steinfield and Miss Elizabeth Weyver for the claimants; Mr Jack Hames, QC and Mr Peter Cowell for Mr Harris.

MR JUSTICE DRAKE said that on April 16, 1986 he gave directions, *inter alia*, that the claimants should open their case fully.

Mr Brodie sought to open the case for the claimants, but Mr Hames objected, claiming that Mr Harris had the right which was provided for by Order 62, rule 8, and by observations made in the course of the appeal in *Bahai v Rashidian* and was consistent with remarks made by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in *R & T Theatres Ltd v Reeves* ([1982] QB 1283).

Counsel for Mr Harris said in particular that no order should be made against the solicitor unless he was given the opportunity to appeal in court and show cause.

His Lordship said that he did not read Order 62 as conferring upon the solicitor the right of compulsion to open the application by showing cause why he should not pay costs, and he saw that the court had jurisdiction of a compensatory nature but it must not exercise its jurisdiction in such a summary fashion that it deprived the solicitor of the right to show cause that the order should not be made against him.

His Lordship did not see how it could be right that a solicitor should get up and have the full thrust of the burden of showing cause without knowing the full charges against him. It would be unfair to the solicitor and unwarrantable in practice.

In this case Mr Harris had been given the fullest opportunity to show why claims should not be made against him and his Lordship could see nothing in Order 62 or the authorities to suggest otherwise. Either the rule or his Lordship's order of April 16 should stand.

The application was misconceived and any complaints against his Lordship's order should have been made to the Court of Appeal.

Solicitors: Max Bial Greene & Co; Gasquet Metcalfe & Walton.

Correction

In *M. H. Smith (Plant Hire) Ltd v Mainwaring (a trustee)* (*The Times* June 10) it was not made clear that the plaintiff company had not been dissolved and not merely wound up at the date of the commencement of proceedings.

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Cranmer Court, Sloane Avenue, SW3
Selection of attractive furnished flats in this sought after location. 1, 2, 3 bedrooms, double reception rooms, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

Maida Vale, W9
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£1 MILLION
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CHelsea SW10

An enchanting house on only 3 acres in good decorative order situated in a quiet location off Cheyne Walk. 5/6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (3 en suite) superb drawing room, 2 further reception rooms, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

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QUEENS GATE SW7: Exceptionally well located in a prime location. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

IMMACULATE PENTHOUSE WITH GARAGE
Beautifully finished penthouse in prime location. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

DRAYTON GARDENS, SW6

Spacious 1 bedroomed apartment in immaculate location. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 reception room, 1 living room, 1 terrace, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

W14 Kensington
Large detached house in prime location. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, 3 living rooms, 3 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

QUEENS GATE, S.W.7

Large immaculate interior designed flat on 2 floors. Master bedroom with private bath, 2 living rooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

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Beautifully finished penthouse in prime location. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

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Private advertisement
We are urgently seeking 4/5 bedrooms in a quiet location in WIMBLEDON.

It must be in the village area in good order, with good central location and garden and garage. If you are keen on selling your property and are in the above requirements, please contact the Estate Agents.

Reply to BOX 32

CHelsea SW10

An enchanting house on only 3 acres in good decorative order situated in a quiet location off Cheyne Walk. 5/6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (3 en suite) superb drawing room, 2 further reception rooms, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 terraces, gas, 21,275,000 per week.

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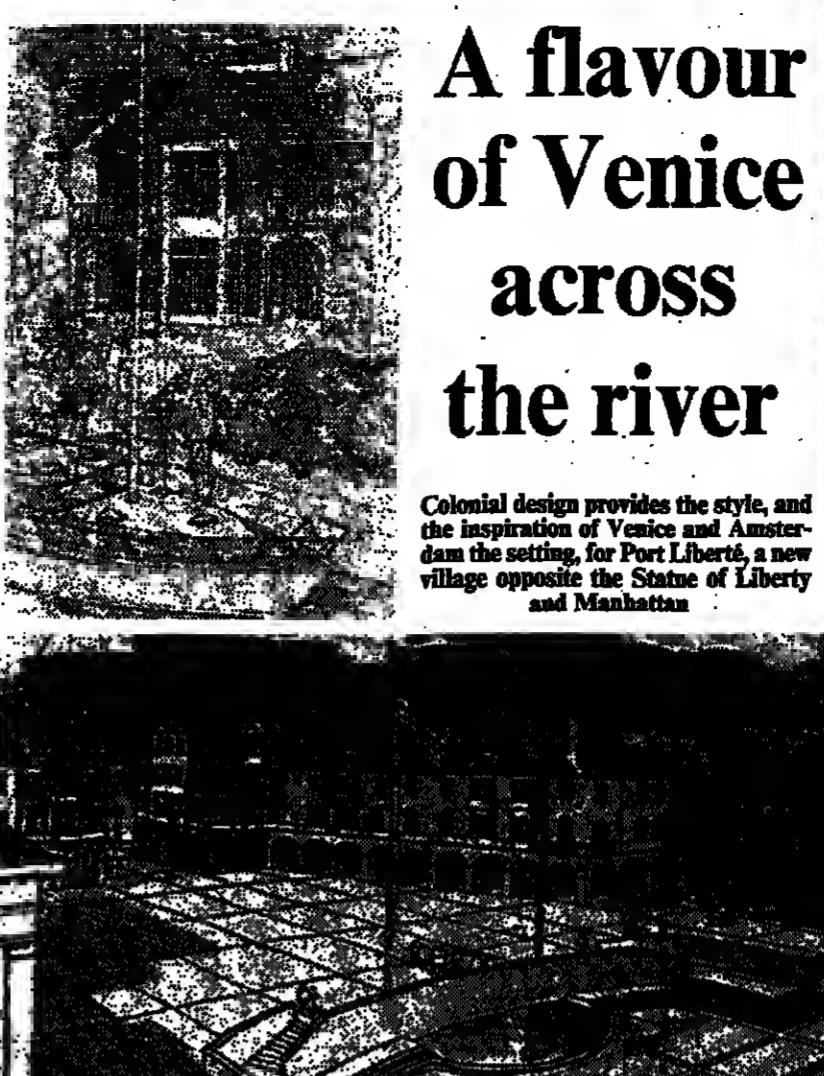
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OVERSEAS PROPERTY



A flavour of Venice across the river

Colonial design provides the style, and the inspiration of Venice and Amsterdam the setting, for Port Liberté, a new village opposite the Statue of Liberty and Manhattan

Port Liberté is an unlikely venture – an attempt to bring European elegance through the examples of the water-borne cities of Amsterdam and Venice, in New England colonial style, to an area of New Jersey opposite New York which has lain dormant for years.

It will be launched on the American public on July 4, the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, which is its focus and to which it looks across the Hudson river. It will eventually provide 1,700 homes, including town houses and apartments, with mooring for 900 boats.

Port Liberté is intended to be a year-round community, embracing holiday-makers and yachtsmen and commuters to New York and elsewhere, in a modern seaside village designed by the sailor-architect Francois Spoerry, who was responsible for Port Grimaud on the French Mediterranean coast, and this is in many ways the model for Port Liberté.

As Port Grimaud was inspired by Venice's canals, so will Port Liberté draw inspiration from ancient Amsterdam, Venice and Port Grimaud. Spoerry, by coincidence, comes from Mulhouse in France, home of Bartholdi, sculptor of the Statue of Liberty.

At present the project, on 176 acres of land, is in its earliest stages but the first residents are expected to move in by the end of the year. The consortium behind

the scheme, including Prince Ferdinand von Bismarck, great grandson of the Iron Chancellor, emphasizes its international nature and hopes the final community will be about 80 per cent American and 20 per cent from overseas, predominantly European.

With Spoerry and Prince Ferdinand as partners in the venture are Pierre Barrier Labouchère, a Swiss, and Paul Bucha, a West Point graduate who won the Congressional Medal of Honor in Vietnam. The plan emerged in 1983 after Spoerry determined that the site could provide his Port Grimaud on the river Hudson. The following year his group was designated as the developer of the area by the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency, from 40 applications.

It is undoubtedly an imaginative conception. More than 1,000 inquiries were received after it was publicized in two New Jersey newspapers in April, and more than 150 applicants have reserved homes. Described as a yachting village, Port Liberté is overtly planned to appeal to all groups of people, with about 10 per cent of the units bought by investors to be rented, widening the mix.

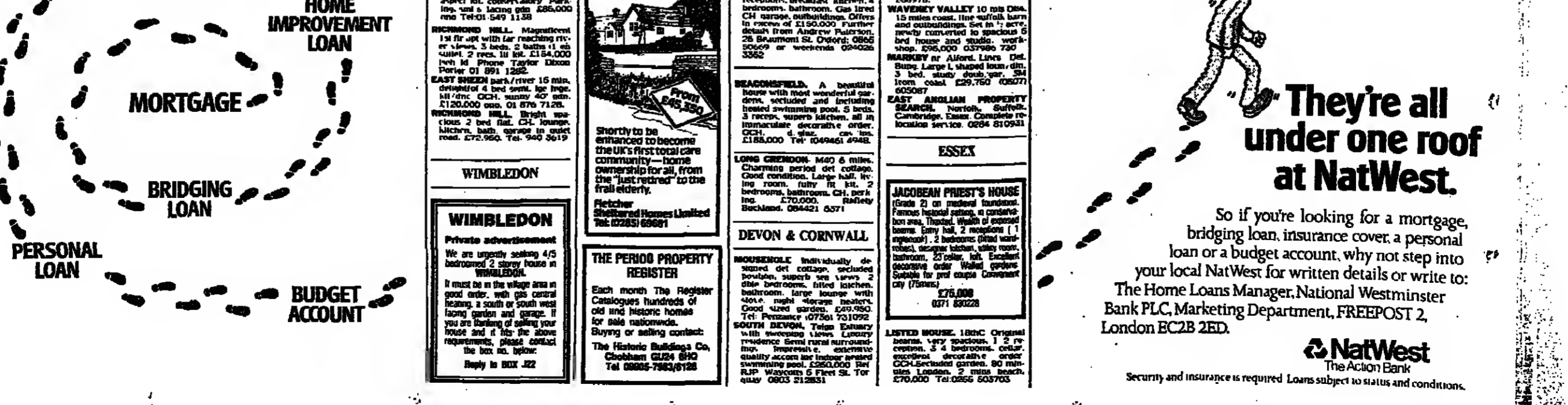
In addition to the 250 town houses and 1,440 apartments, Port Liberté will boast a yacht club, a tennis and health club, a hotel, restaurants, shops, an office complex, a marina and a sanctuary for wildlife. The blocks will have indoor parking and optional boat slipways. The total sales value of the project is around \$600 million, with the first phase of 362 units costing \$30 million.

One of the attractions is that although Port Liberté is close to Manhattan, prices are considerably less. The initial prices are estimated at about \$303,000 or \$208 per square foot, compared with at least \$350 per square foot in New York. The state and city tax rate is also lower, and Port Liberté has been granted a partial real estate tax abatement by Jersey City.

Prices in the first phase range from \$115,500 to \$223,500 for a one-bedroom apartment, to \$280,500-\$305,500 for three bedrooms, and \$410,500-\$779,500 for a town house. The first phase is expected to be completed by early 1988, and the whole project by 1995, transforming an area last used as an army railroad terminal, and providing what is thought to be the largest single owned marina on the east coast.

The American headquarters of Port Liberté are in the World Trade Center, Manhattan (212 433 2000), and an office is shortly to open in London.

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent



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مكتبة

DePalmer survivor of 'Russian roulette' with English No. 1

Mike DePalmer, an American left-hander who beat Jimmy Connors at the Queen's Club last year and has not set the Thames or any other river on fire since, managed to attract most of the attention on the second day of the Stella Artois championships.

strong a term - of Russian roulette. The American, dark and thick-set and generally more adept at doubles than singles, was serving first in the third set so it was Lloyd who was under constant pressure.

bledon champion in the Australian Open last December but he could make little impression on Connors who looked as if he had been keeping himself in good shape during his enforced respite from the tour.

In fact, apart from three exhibition tournaments, he insisted he had done nothing for four and a half weeks except enjoy himself with his family.

RESULTS: Men's singles: First round: B Becker (FR) vs K Flach (USA), 6-2, 6-2; P Fleming (USA) vs N Diller (USA), 7-5, 6-7, 5; C Van Rensburg (SA) vs L Lavalle (Mex), 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; S Zivkovic (YUG) vs B Bisset (SA), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; Woodcock (AUS) vs G Downey (GB), 7-5, 6-7, 6-4; M DePalmer (USA) vs J Lloyd (GB), 6-1, 4-6, 13-11.

At 11 games all, it was a fluke, the miscued shot falling into the far corner of the court. As DePalmer had fallen on the previous point he might have been forgiven for thinking his luck was running out.

By the time Lloyd wasted all that effort by double-faulting when DePalmer reached match point for the third time, Becker had been and gone, crunching another American doubles expert, Ken Flach, 6-2, 6-2 and Connors, reappearing for the first time since his 10 week suspension, was already a set up against Michael Schapers, a player Becker will remember ruefully.

CRICKET: LEICESTERSHIRE ON THE CLIMB AS THEY RECORD THEIR SECOND SUCCESSIVE WIN

Fletcher digs in as Essex give Middlesex Compelling final up the chase for victory

CHELMSFORD: Essex (6pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (7). Essex's Championship leaders, bravely chased a target of 293 in 260 minutes yesterday on a dusty, worn pitch. As long as Prichard and Border stayed, the match remained open.

Hadlee fear Middlesex act at Hove

Mike Garring, the new England captain, has quickly turned his thoughts towards county affairs and Middlesex's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final against Nottinghamshire at Lord's today.

PGA members will be asked to aid foundation

The Professional Golfers Association is to launch a scheme to improve the finances of the golf foundation, the organization responsible for the development of junior golf in Great Britain.

Zimbabwe favoured to retain ICC Trophy

The ICC Trophy, for the cricketers nations which are associate members of the International Cricket Conference, begins in the Midlands today.

Maynard makes his point

Edgbaston: Warwickshire (8pts) drew with Glamorgan (5). A century by batsman Maynard was the only feature of a day much interrupted by rain.

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Table with columns for Match, Innings, Runs, Wickets, and Extras. Includes scores for Leicestershire vs Essex, Oxford Univ v Kent, Surrey v Derbyshire, and Warwickshire vs Glamorgan.

Smillie battles to beat elements

A fierce gusting wind coupled with an unrealistic par of 71 for the West Sussex course at Pulborough produced some unflattering scores on the first day of the British women's championship yesterday.

Boxing: Launching of Cruz

Steve Cruz is a name that is not going to be forgotten on this side of the Atlantic - or on the other side for that matter.

Advertisement for La Crème de la Crème, featuring a woman's face and text about skin care products.

Advertisement for Gola at Molineux, mentioning Wolverhampton Wanderers and football news.

Advertisement for Blue Dragons find lack of home costly, mentioning Rugby League news.

Advertisement for New Zealand pair find touch in wet, mentioning Croquet and New Zealand players.

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FOOTBALL: NORTH AFRICANS IN HOT AND HIGH PURSUIT OF A WIN WHILE NORTHERN IRISH EYES ARE TRAINED ON A DRAW

Morocco's hopes rise with the altitude as they seek first goal

Guadalajara (Reuter) - Morocco, with the humidity of Mooterrey a rapidly fading memory, have arrived here committed to scoring their first goal in the World Cup finals for 16 years.



"In fact, we were the only team in Monterrey to play three forwards," he said. "They are good enough. They just have to learn to shoot straight."

Team officials said the only injury doubt was Abdelaziz Boudelbala, a forward, who has a slight leg strain.

Bossio will miss Scotland match

Miguel Bossio, of Uruguay, has been banned from the final group game against Scotland, following his sending off against Denmark.

Uruguayan players have sprung to the defence of their coach, Omar Borrás, amid reports that they planned to stage a "coup" against him.

Uruguay suffered three suspensions, one of them an indefinite FIFA ban.

FIFA has said Shaker cannot play football again until they have reconsidered his case - and football's governing body warned Iraq about its players' future behaviour.

Irish call time on television

Northern Ireland plan to protest to FIFA about the lack of injury time in the second half of their World Cup matches so far.

Each time the shoulder comes out, the size of the pocket increases and so the joint dislocates more readily.

Romero, aged 27, who plays for the Brazilian side, Fluminense, has scored both his side's goals in the draw against Mexico.



Robson with Reid, the man who might replace him (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

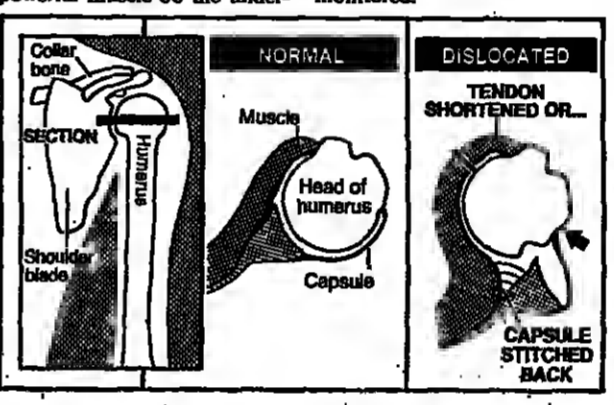
Robson booked for surgery

By John Goodbody

Bryan Robson faces one of two operations, common for sportsmen, to prevent his right shoulder from dislocating.

Dislocate if you cough. So the surgeon, in nautical terms, takes in a "reef" of the tendon.

Either way Robson will have to rest for at least a month before resuming training, and then exercise must be carefully monitored.



RESULTS AND TABLES

Monday Group C (at León) France 3 Hungary 0. Group B Mexico v Iraq (Mexico City, 7pm), ITV, live coverage of second half, 7.45.

WORLD CUP TABLES GROUP A: Argentina 2, Italy 2, Bulgaria 2, Slovakia 2. GROUP B: Mexico 2, Paraguay 2, Belgium 2, Iraq 1. GROUP C: USSR 3, France 3, Hungary 3, Canada 0. GROUP D: Poland 2, Portugal 2, Morocco 2, England 2.

Molby is kept out of team by Sivebaek

John Sivebaek, of Manchester United, has ousted Jan Molby, of Liverpool, for the vacant midfield place in the Denmark team to play West Germany in Copenhagen on Friday.

The last of the summer whine

Let us take the positive view as we prepare to watch England play Poland tonight. With any luck, it will be the summer's last night of agony.

Nicholas on the mend

Charlie Nicholas, the Scotland forward, may still play in the Group E match against Uruguay in the Nezahualcoyotl Stadium on Friday.

Penney drops out of crucial Irish game with Brazil

Steve Penney has reluctantly ruled himself out of a World Cup meeting with Brazil on tomorrow, amid growing hopes that all Northern Ireland need is a draw to reach the second phase.

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France are taking nothing for granted

Henri Michel, the manager of France, is a hard man to please. After watching his team qualify in style for the second stage of the World Cup with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Hungary.

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SPEEDWAY

Morton the daredevil has burning ambition

Three riders have good cause to be pleased with themselves after Sunday's Commonwealth final of the world individual championship at Belle Vue.

Morton, a battler who makes up for his lack of sharpness at the gate with daredevil acceleration, has put up some consistent performances both in world championship heats and in international matches against Denmark.

FOR THE RECORD

Croquet is going down like a boiled sweet

The story of Sir Macpherson Robertson's regency to riches story of classical simplicity. Born into a poor Scottish immigrant family in Melbourne, the young Robertson determined to climb to the top.

BASEBALL

NORTH AMERICAN National League (Philadelphia Phillies 3, New York Mets 2 (10pm), Chicago Cubs 5 (11pm), Houston Astros 5, San Diego Padres 2, Los Angeles Dodgers 4, Oakland Athletics 4).

CRICKET

ANZLERS: 2nd Test, England 222, Australia 222 (1st day, 1st Innings). 2nd Test, England 222, Australia 222 (1st day, 1st Innings).

CYCLING

LA DORADA: Tour of Colombia 2nd stage (Columbian of the stage), R. R. Barrera, 4hr 25min, 111.7km, 1st day, 1st stage, 1st day, 1st stage.

GOLF

WPGA TOUR AND OTHER TOURS OF MERIT TABLE: Leading players (2nd round), J. L. Hudson, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Super Secretaries

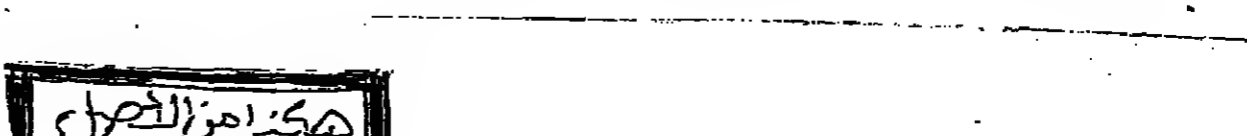
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1
6.00 Cee-fax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank...

TV-AM
6.15 Good Morning Britain
6.25 News at 6.30
6.35 The News

BBC 2
8.55 Open University: Database - Management System. Ends at 7.20
9.00 Cee-fax

CHANNEL 4
2.10 The Lighthouse House. A repeat of last night's highlights of the day's proceedings in the House of Lords.

Radio 4
On long wave. VHF variations at end.
5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing.

Radio 3
On medium wave. VHF variations at end.
6.55 The Archers
7.20 In Business. What the Japanese are up to in...

Radio 2
On long wave. VHF variations at end.
5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing.
6.25 The News

Radio 1
On medium wave. VHF variations at end.
5.30am Adrian John 7.00 Mike Smith's Breakfast Show 9.30...

WORLD SERVICE
6.00 Newslight 6.30 Meridian 7.00 News
7.05 Sportsweek 9.00 News 9.55 Report

drops on... special Irish... with Brazil... are taking for granted... on the me...



Mary Berry: Cooking for Celebrations, TV 3.30pm

It is "How to" night on television: how to avoid heart attacks, how to make a celebratory cake...

Berry convinces us as ideal for engagement parties. In this, she shows herself to be a traditionalist because, as we...

moment when Ernie Wise, patting his TV-viewer's tummy, tells us that watching him...

New (Quart No 2)
Blaze: France's National Radio Orchestra play the Symphony in C...

11.57 News. 12.00 Cee-fax. 12.05 News. 12.15 Open Forum. 12.30 Students' Magazine.

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THE NORMAL HEART

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